

# Hongkong Weekly Press

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### CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	305
Leading Articles:—	
The Crisis and British Relations with China	306
The Alcoholic Liquors Commission	306
The Management of Peak Affairs	307
The Administration of the New Territory	307
The Victoria Jubilee Road	307
The Crown Agency System	308
Points of Company Law	308
The Crisis in China	309
Hongkong Legislative Council	309
The Alcoholic Liquors Commission	310
The Victoria Jubilee Road	311
The Charges against Letter-Carriers	312
Burning of the Berlin Missionary Society's School at Canton	312
Submission of Visayas Rebels	313
Polo	313
Shooting	313
The Hongkong Rifle Association	314
The Royal Hongkong Golf Club	314
Hongkong Football Club	314
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	314
Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited	314
Shanghai Engineering, Shipbuilding and Dock Co., Limited	314
British and Chinese Corporation	315
Raub	315
Correspondence	316
Foreigners Mobbed in Peking	317
The Coup D'Etat at Peking	317
The Wholesale Repeal of Reforms	318
Imperial Decrees	318
The Trial of the Reformers at Peking	319
Wong Kung-Du	319
Great Fire in Hankow	319
Jung Lu	319
Another Death From Hydrophobia at Shanghai	319
Hongkong and Port News	321
Commercial	321
Shipping	324

### DEATHS.

At Bay View Cottage, Chefoo, on the 23rd September, 1898, the wife of Fred. W. GODSIL, of a daughter.

At Quarry Bay, on the 10th October, the wife of JAS. WADDELL, of a daughter.

### MARRIAGES.

In the Roman Catholic Church, in Tokyo, by the Rev. Father EYARD, ALFRED ARNOLD, to MABEL MARY, youngest daughter of the late JASPER BLUETT, of Batavia, Java.

On Saturday, 1st October, at the British Legation, Tokyo, and afterwards at Christ Church, Yokohama, JOHN B. RENTIER, H.B.M.'s Consular Service, Japan, son of the late J. B. Rentiers, of Calcutta and London, to HARRIET LILIAN, third daughter of the late Dr. Robert MACK, of Canonbury.

### DEATH.

At 55A, Broadway, on the 5th October, 1898, SOEY ELIZABETH, the dearly beloved wife of Captain J. A. SCOTT, of the steamer *Sail*, aged 30 years.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 9th September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Caledonien*, on the 9th October (30 days); the English mail of the 16th September arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 13th October (27 days); the American mail of the 13th September arrived, per P. M. steamer *Gleagyle*, on the 14th October (31 days); and the American mail of the 17th September arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 13th October (26 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Admiral Montojo and family left for Europe by the M. M. steamer *Laos* on Saturday.

M. Doumer, the Governor-General of French Indo-China, was a passenger homeward by the M. M. steamer *Indus*.

The recent cases of hydrophobia at Shanghai have given rise to an agitation at that port for the muzzling of dogs.

Prince Henry of Prussia, with the *Deutschland* and *Irene*, was at Taku at date of our latest mail advices from the North.

It is reported that the Taotai Yung Wing's contract for the Tientsin-Chinkiang Railway has been cancelled. Yung Wing being one of the earliest and most enthusiastic Reformers.—*China Gazette*.

Lord Charles Berosford was the guest of Mr. Smith, Acting Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, during his stay in Shanghai. He was to leave on Saturday last for Peking, calling at Weihaiwei en route.

The principal Japanese merchants and residents at Shanghai gave a grand banquet to Marquis Ito on the 6th October in Chang Su-h's garden, to which sixteen Chinese officials were also invited, amongst them being H. E. Kwei, Viceroy-designate of Szechuan, Railway Director Sheng, the Shanghai Taotai, and other distinguished mandarins.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 1st October says:—The typhoon telegraphed as passing up the Bashee Channel early in the week made itself felt here yesterday and last night. The blow was intermittent, but severe at each outburst, and the roofs of many of the foreign houses suffered a good deal. The barometer did not go lower than 29.40 on the hill.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—The British and Japanese Ministers, or, as some have it, the British and German Ministers, have made formal requests for an audience with H.I.M. Kuang Hsu on the ground that they are accredited to him—this, it is said, with the intention of ascertaining if he be still alive, and if so, if he abdicated his Imperial functions willingly. I regard some such action as in itself exceedingly probable; if it has been taken, the development will be watched with absorbing interest. It is believed here in all quarters that the Emperor is alive.

It is now acknowledged by the mandarins that the four-funnelled torpedo-catcher *Feiyang* was sent to Shanghai from Weihaiwei by Viceroy Jung Lu to chase the *Chungking* and if possible get the person of Kang Yu-wei from that steamer. It is further stated that the Chefoo Taotai was also secretly notified by telegraph to capture Kang, but the Taotai was urgently wanted at Kiaochau at the time, and he carried the telegram with him not daring to let it be known lest warning be given to Kang of his danger. Hence when Kang came to Chefoo and actually landed to call upon some of his friends there, buying, *en passant*, a small basket of variegated coloured pebbles for keeping hyacinth bulbs and some fruit, not a single yamen runner knew what a big prize had been in his very clutches, until the Taotai returned a day or two afterwards.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Amongst the passengers by the M. M. steamer *Caledonien* from Marseilles to Shanghai were sixteen gentlemen sent out by the syndicate which has secured the concession of the Peking and Hankow Railway. The party is composed of ten Belgians, five Frenchmen, and one Italian. They are to spend a year in surveying the country and preparing plans, and then the work of construction is to commence. They call themselves the "Mission d'études du chemin de fer."

T'an San-t'ung, the eldest son of the Governor of Hupeh, T'an Chi-heun, who was seized and beheaded together with the five other prominent members of the Reform Party, may be well regarded as as near a hero as China is likely to produce. He had ample time to escape, but refused to fly from the wrath to come, remarking that he wished to meet his death as a "Hao Hantzu" (a good Son of Han) "What does it matter," he said, "if a few of us die? In all western countries blood has flown like water in the cause of reform. Let my blood be the first shed in the great cause."—*China Gazette*.

The fate of the Emperor of China still remains in doubt, statements that he is dead and that he is still alive succeeding each other at brief intervals. In the meantime the situation at Peking has been growing uncomfortable for foreign residents, several of whom have been mobbed, and in consequence several of the Powers have sent guards for the legations. The Tsungli Yamen strongly objected to foreign troops being introduced into the capital and the departure of the guards from Tientsin was in consequence delayed for some time, but the foreign Ministers stood firm on the point and the Chinese had to yield. The presence of the guards is said to have produced an excellent effect. It is reported that Chang Yin-huang has been murdered by secret order of the Empress-Dowager while on his way to his place of banishment in Kashgaria. Chang Chih-tung is said to be in danger of being cashiered, and Wong Kung-du (Huang Chun-hsien), formerly Chinese Consul at Singapore, who had been appointed Minister to Japan and was at Shanghai on his way to take up his appointment, has been superseded.

The Amoy correspondent of the *Echo de Chine* writes:—Latterly our little island of Kulangsu has begun to be literally inundated by Chinese. While all the Europeans live on Kulangsu the English concession is situated at the other side of the harbour, on the island of Amoy itself, but only the business offices, Customs-house, and Banks are located there. Last year the Road Committee presented to the Consular Corps a proposition tending to convert the island of Kulangsu into an international concession, thus putting an end to the inconveniences produced by the Chinese immigration. This proposition was approved by the Consular Corps and sent to Peking. The reply was that the time was not opportune, the stereotyped answer when concessions are in question. We are therefore surrounded by Chinese and obliged to pass our nights without sleep owing to their noisy theatre. A tendency may be noted, however, to sell all the land to Chinese, perhaps with a view to demanding a concession elsewhere. In the whole of Kulangsu there remain now only two or three lots still owned by Europeans. Even the Amoy Club has been on the point of being sold to a Chinaman.



## THE CRISIS AND BRITISH RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 8th October.)

At no time probably in the history of Foreign relations with China has the situation been so ticklish as at the present moment. The Chinese Government of the day is a usurpation, based on criminal violence. The Emperor KWANG SU, now known to have grown up in the seclusion of the Imperial Palace at Peking into an amiable and well intentioned young man, had become imbued with a desire for reform, and was anxious to promote it. Meanwhile, whether through outside pressure or internal dissatisfaction, LI HUNG-CHANG, the great prince of corruption in the Empire, had been dismissed from office. The Empress Dowager, the confederate of that unprincipled man, either instigated by her own alarm or prompted by him, decided on a *coup d'état*. Probably by the plentiful use of bribes—both conspirators are well supplied with the sinews of war—they succeeded in isolating the Emperor from his supporters, and the EMPRESS successfully grasped the reins of power. Concerning what has followed comparatively little has been allowed to transpire. The EMPRESS DOWAGER has assumed full power and has made use of it to issue edicts against all enemies real or supposed. The luckless EMPEROR has not been seen since the *coup* and is believed to be dead. The EMPRESS DOWAGER, whose avarice and lust of power are about on a par, has thus secured a third term of supremacy, for it will not be difficult for her to select some youthful scion of the reigning family and bring him up in the way she wishes him to go, namely, to carry out her behests. This old harridan has had previous experience of how to play the game. The Emperor TUNG CHIH was for a long term of years obliged to move as his guardians directed, and the Emperor KWANG SU was not less obedient to her command until quite recently. Knowledge with him, poor lad, came too late. When he, in accordance with advice, attempted to exercise the authority supposed to be his prerogative, and to institute some much needed reforms in the administration of the government, the Empress Dowager saw her influence and ascendancy threatened, and hastened to procure the downfall of the puppet she set up on the death of TUNG CHIH.

The condition of affairs in the capital is now largely a matter of conjecture. The utmost vigilance is exercised by the party in power to watch persons entering or leaving Peking, and this is a matter of comparative ease, as they have control of the gates. It is to be presumed also that the position of foreigners resident there is not either pleasant or secure. If the capital becomes so disturbed that life and property are unsafe, the Powers will not be long in taking steps to intervene for their own protection, and any attempt to encourage a rising of the populace against foreigners at this juncture would lead very speedily to intervention and the overthrow of the usurping, female tyrant. What would happen thereafter it is difficult to predict. There might be differences of opinion. Russia and France might have some nominee to support, Great Britain, Germany, and the United States another, and perhaps other Powers a third. Of course it is possible that they would all agree to support the same claimant, but even then there might be a scramble for his subsequent good offices. The outlook is not a bright one. Peking is, more than ever,

likely to be a focus of intrigue, in which the least scrupulous of the contestants are likely to prove most successful. The action of the EMPRESS DOWAGER will unquestionably tend to complicate the relations of China with Foreign Powers and is therefore to be regretted on that score alone. It is also deeply to be lamented as a serious set back to the Reform party and a great discouragement to those Chinese who have the real welfare of their country at heart.

No doubt the simplest way out of the difficulty would be for the Treaty Powers to merely recognise accomplished events and treat with the usurper as the successor of the Son of Heaven. It is to be hoped, however, that no Foreign Representative at Peking will receive instructions to that effect. To do so would be unworthy of any civilised State. It would be openly endorsing usurpation and sanctioning crime. Least of all would it become Great Britain to recognise a ruler whose accession to power had been signalled by violence and whose known policy it is to reinstate the man who has so recently been accused of selling his country to the Russians. It is certainly not the interest of Great Britain or the United States to see LI HUNG-CHANG return to power and place at Peking. Indeed, it is not too much to say that these Powers ought to resist any attempt to restore this discredited mandarin to the Tsung-li Yamen at any cost. Rather than submit to such a slap in the face—for it would be that—the Anglo-Saxon Powers and their Allies should take upon themselves to remove the capital to Nanking and there set up a new Government with a new dynasty. This may sound arbitrary, but it may prove the only practicable solution of the difficulty.

## THE ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS COMMISSION.

(Daily Press, 11th October.)

The Alcoholic Liquors Commission find that the complaints as to the sale of deleterious spirits in Hongkong are unfounded. The drunkenness that takes place must therefore be due to the quantity and not the quality of the liquor consumed. Mr. F. BROWNE, the Acting Government Analyst, when giving evidence before the Commission was asked "How is artificial whisky prepared?" to which he replied:—"I have here the price list of a most respectable firm, and I see that they sell whisky essence at 22 shillings a pint. One pint of this essence (Scotch or Irish) added to 100 gallons of proof spirit, or spirit of the desired strength, forms whisky of a superior quality." In answer to another question Mr. BROWNE expressed the opinion that the alcohol used in the manufacture of artificial spirits was likely to be a more or less pure product, i.e., free from fusel oil, etc., or any injurious constituent. Spirit so manufactured is necessarily cheap, and its cheapness will naturally lead to its being consumed in larger quantities than more expensive spirits, when the consumers are men with only a small amount of money to spend, such as soldiers and sailors. The deleterious element of the spirits in question seems in fact to be their cheapness. A strong opinion prevailed that the cheap spirits sold in the drinking saloons were radically bad; the Commission has been of value in dissipating this idea and directing attention to the real cause of the evil which led to the appointment of the Commission, namely, "that the drunkenness here is due to the quantity and not to the quality of the liquor consumed." As they say in another paragraph that "drunken-

ness in this colony amongst the European population is not in excess of the amount found in other ports and cities," and as there are not many ports or cities where liquor is sold as cheaply as in Hongkong, there being no Custom's duty upon it here, it would seem to follow that cheap spirits in proportion to the quantity consumed cause less drunkenness than more expensive spirits, since Hongkong, where the consumption must be larger than the average owing to the low cost of the spirits, shows only the normal amount of drunkenness. The evidence as to the amount of drunkenness not being excessive seems fairly conclusive. Lieut.-Colonel The O'GORMAN reports that "Drunkenness in this garrison is not excessive; one seldom sees a drunken soldier by day in the streets and not often at night;" and similar replies came from the captains of the men-of-war in port at the time the inquiry was in progress. True Commander ST. JOHN, of the *Peacock*, expressed the opinion that the amount of drunkenness on the station was excessive compared with other stations on which he had served, but this opinion was coupled with the definite statement that no cases of drunkenness had occurred amongst the men of his own ship whilst at Hongkong. Commander ST. JOHN's own evidence may therefore be cited against his opinion. But although drunkenness is not excessive in the colony there remains the question whether in individual cases the character of spirit consumed produces unusual effects of the nature of temporary insanity. Lieut.-Colonel The O'GORMAN says:—"The Chinese liquor (commonly called 'Bazaar liquor') has very frequently the effect of making men violent. . . . Commanding Officers have reported that this cheap Chinese liquor makes men mad for a time and is the cause of most of the serious crimes. Non-commissioned officers have told me that this fiery spirit takes effect upon soldiers very quickly, drives them off to brothels, and is the cause of nearly all the cases of insubordination and other crimes." There seems, however, to be no scientific evidence in support of the bad character given to Chinese spirits. Surgeon Colonel EVART reports that the condition of the cases of alcoholism admitted to hospital during 1897 was apparently due to the quantity rather than the quality of the liquor consumed and that there were no cases of delirium tremens which were considered to be the result of a brief period of intoxication. Dr. ATKINSON's replies are complicated by the introduction of cases of datura and Indian hemp intoxication, which were presumably cases of poisoning, but he is of opinion that the cases of intoxication admitted to hospital were due chiefly to the quantity and not the quality of the liquor consumed. The replies of Dr. G. MACLEAN, Deputy Inspector-General, R.N., are to the same effect as regards his own observation, but he adds:—"I have heard from medical officers of ships in harbour that they have frequently to deal with cases among their ships' companies of men suffering from the effects of what they have reason to believe to be deleterious adulterated liquors supplied to them on shore; and I am informed that the cases of intoxication which occur in the Seamen's Club are invariably the result of inferior liquor supplied to the men from outside by native vendors." It seems to have been found impossible, however, to get any direct evidence, evidence at first hand, of the existence and sale in the colony of these alleged deleterious adulterated liquors.



Even Chinese samshu is given a good character by the Commissioners, who say "the effect of drinking these Chinese liquors is practically the same as that produced by whisky of the same strength," but owing to its cheapness, and the drunkenness here being due to the quantity and not the quality of the liquor consumed, they recommend that legislation should be undertaken so that liquor containing samshu may not be sold either directly or indirectly to Europeans.

#### THE MANAGEMENT OF PEAK AFFAIRS.

(Daily Press 10th October.)

Nine years ago a deputation of the Peak residents waited upon the then Governor, Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, in reference to the water supply and drainage of the Hill District. In the course of the interview the Governor, after stating the official programme with regard to the water supply, said:—"I may tell you that if you do not like this plan I am very much disposed to favour the Peak residents becoming a municipality or forming a company for the carrying out of the work. . . . Of course with regard to a municipality there is an entire absence at the Peak of a reason against it that we find below—you are nearly all of one nationality. I have thought over the question of a municipality many times during the last few months—not with any prejudice against a municipality—there is nothing I should like to see better, but below it is absolutely impossible. At the Peak the chief objection against the plan is absent, the bulk of the residents being European, and there would not be the same difficulty as below, nor any necessity for Government members or Chinese representatives. Therefore if you feel inclined in that direction I shall be very much disposed to favourably consider it, although my impression is that the Peak residents are not in sufficient numbers to carry it out yet." Since that time the residents at the Peak have become more numerous, and they may perhaps be disposed ere long to consider the hint thrown out by Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX. In an article on the subject which appeared in this column at the time the remarks were made the suggestion was advanced that without going so far as to form themselves into a Municipality, for which their numbers appeared too small, they might form themselves into an association and appoint a committee to communicate with the Government when occasion arose, so as to be able to urge improvements or point out any mistake that was being made. At the present time some little irritation is expressed at the failure of the Government to proceed at once with the much needed chair shelter at Victoria Gap. There is no dispute as to the necessity of the work. People who step out of the tram and thoughtlessly sit down in a chair which has become wet through standing out in the fog not only experience discomfort but also incur some risk to their health. All this is no doubt admitted by the Government, but the position taken up by them is, as we gather, that if the Peak residents want a chair shelter they should pay for it themselves and not ask to have the residents of Taipingshan taxed for the purpose, and that if they don't like to pay for the shelter they must be content to endure the discomfort of wet chairs or to walk. It would certainly be inequitable that the denizens of the town, the large majority of whom have a slender margin of income left after paying for their

subsistence, should be taxed for the benefit of the more fortunate classes who are in a position to indulge in the luxury of hill residences. On the other hand there is no good reason why the latter should, in consequence of their connection with the city and of the system of red tape which prevails, be debarred from improvements for which they are willing to pay or which their existing taxation is sufficient to cover. In the earlier days of the Peak the district obtained a great deal more than its fair share of the benefits of the public expenditure, and probably does so still, but we are inclined to doubt whether that will long be the case. The rateable value of the Hill District, according to the last assessment, is \$138,765, and it is increasing more rapidly than that of any other part of the colony. It would be a simple matter to ascertain whether the expenditure in the district properly chargeable to municipal rates exceeds the income and if so by how much. If the expenditure does not amount to the income the Peak residents would have a good claim either to be allowed to manage their municipal affairs for themselves or, if they were not prepared to ask for a municipality, that suggested improvements should meet with consideration at the hands of the Government. If, on the other hand, the income from municipal rates in the Hill District were found not to balance the expenditure, we should say the rates ought to be raised or the expenditure reduced; if the residents expressed dissatisfaction the Government could renew the offer made by Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX and tell them that if they thought they could manage matters better themselves they were welcome to try.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW TERRITORY.

(Daily Press, 12th October.)

Neither in the Estimates for 1899 nor in the Acting Colonial Secretary's speech in moving the second reading of the appropriation Bill is any reference made to the administration of the new Kowloon territory and the means by which the cost of the same is to be provided. The omission of the subject from the Estimates is perhaps not surprising, since no definite vote could well be asked for pending the completion of arrangements, but some passing reference to the subject might not have been out of place in the budget speech. The idea seems to be that the district shall be administered as far as possible on native lines, under the direction of Residents appointed by the Hongkong Government, and that it shall be treated as a dependency but not as an integral portion of the colony. A system of that kind, we venture to think, would not be found workable very long. As soon as the territory is formally taken over a commencement will have to be made with roadmaking, for which the funds will have to be advanced by Hongkong, and as the roads are made industries will spring up and the population extend. No doubt it would be inconvenient and inexpedient to apply to the primitive Chinese towns and villages that will shortly come under our rule laws that have been passed with special reference to the requirements of the city of Victoria, but the solution of that difficulty will be found, we think, in the adoption of some form of local government. For Victoria, the Peak, and Kowloon Point, where there are European communities, municipalities might be established, whilst the affairs of the villages might be carried on by European officials assisted in each case by one or two of the elders. With

the inclusion of the new territory the colony will be too big to be run exactly on the lines that have been followed hitherto, but the area and population are too small for the adoption of a semi-independent Residential system for the new territory such as that which exists in the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula. Some adaptation of the Residential system may do as a makeshift for a year or two, but it cannot last long. Not only will the district have to be opened up by roads, but it will also have to be adequately policed and provided with proper sanitary arrangements. It may be said the district has done without any police hitherto, but the reply to that is that many things have gone on under the old dispensation which cannot be tolerated under British rule. So also with regard to sanitation: the district is at present innocent of any sanitary system, but it cannot be allowed to remain so. The administration will have to be conducted on the lines of modern civilisation, and that can best be brought about by incorporating the territory wholly and entirely in the colony of Hongkong and allowing it to fully share in the benefits of our public service, for it would be a waste of money and energy to have in so small an area two separate services working side by side but independently. The complete incorporation of the new territory with the colony will no doubt constitute a drag on the finances of the latter for some years to come, but that seems inevitable: the colony must bear the cost of developing its new estate in the hope of benefiting therefrom hereafter by the increased prosperity it will bring.

#### THE VICTORIA JUBILEE ROAD.

(Daily Press, 12th October.)

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, Director of Public Works, publishes to-day an interesting communication with reference to the Jubilee Road. Mr. ORMSBY shows that with the money available a great deal might be done on the sections of the road between Aberdeen and Shaukiwan. A resolution of the Jubilee Committee, however, makes it imperative that the section from Kennedytown to Aberdeen should be first undertaken. This is the most difficult and costly section, and if the money available be expended there we will have only a small piece of road made which would not be long enough to connect the existing roads and would therefore lead to nowhere, or, to be more correct, only to a plague cemetery. The idea present in the minds of the committee when the resolution was passed, however, probably was that if a commencement were made upon this section the work would in ordinary course have to be carried through, whereas if the money were devoted to the other portions of the road the Kennedytown and Aberdeen section might be deferred indefinitely. Mr. ORMSBY's letter leads us to suppose that such would be the case. It is for the subscribers to the fund to say whether the original idea shall be abandoned and Mr. ORMSBY's propositions accepted, or whether a commencement on the Kennedytown and Aberdeen section shall be insisted upon in the expectation that when part of the road is made the Government will be compelled to complete it. Public interest in the project is perhaps not quite so keen as it was, since the scheme of excluding the public from Deepwater Bay, the chief point of attraction on the south side of the island, has been disclosed. The level ground there has been leased to the Golf Club, and the next step is not unlikely to be the granting of exclusive bathing rights to



some small and select club. Since Deep-water Bay, then, is to be no longer available as a place of public resort—(that is if no action be taken to preserve it as such)—the general body of subscribers might perhaps be inclined to favour the Jubilee Road being commenced at the Shaukiwan end, which would form a pleasant afternoon drive than the section beyond Kennedytown, being less exposed to the afternoon sun and leading to Tytan, the most beautiful part of the island and from which there is at present no declared intention of excluding the public.

#### THE CROWN AGENCY SYSTEM.

(Daily Press, 13th October.)

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday the Hon. C. P. CHATER raised once again that old standing grievance the charges of the Crown Agents. It seems that these gentlemen have recently imposed a charge of one per cent. upon the colony on freight and insurance of stores. Mr. CHATER asked for an explanation, and in reply the Acting Colonial Secretary said that immediately he discovered this new charge had been made he protested against it on the ground that it was not in accordance with the regulations and was contrary to commercial practice, but the Secretary of State would not relieve the colony from payment of the commission. The actual amount the colony pays the Crown Agents is not in itself a large sum, but there is an irritating feeling that it is of the nature of a squeeze, an impression that is strengthened by the fact that it seems impossible to obtain any definite and intelligent statement as to the relationship in which the Crown Agents stand to the colonies and the terms on which they transact the business entrusted to them. If the Government could or would clear up this point it might dissipate certain scandalous suspicions that are entertained. In 1892 a short discussion took place on the subject in the Finance Committee when the Estimates were under consideration. On that occasion the then Colonial Secretary, Sir G. T. M. O'BRIEN, stated that the Crown Agents did not get any immediate benefit from commission, that it did not affect their emoluments and it was not to their interest to get a large expenditure so that they should get large commissions; that they were paid certain salaries and were also entitled to pensions; and the money for this purpose came out of the fund which was provided by the Crown Colonies. That presumably is the theory, since it was so stated; but is it applied in practice? The Crown Agents being paid a fixed sum per annum as salary, are we to suppose that all the commissions they make go to the pension fund, and, if so, is the fund subject to any official audit? Why has this new commission on freight and insurance been found necessary? The growing business of the colonies and the proportionately larger amount of commission collected by the Crown Agents ought to be sufficient to keep up the pension fund without having recourse to the imposition of new commissions. Mr. CHATER asked if the rebates and bonuses allowed by the shipping and insurance companies were shown in the statements of account rendered by the Crown Agents, a question which could not be answered at the moment, but we should think there can be little doubt the reply must be in the affirmative, as the secret appropriation of such sums by the Crown

Agents would constitute a breach of commercial morality that could hardly be tolerated even by the complacent officials of Downing Street. But, admitting that everything is probably fair and square in that direction, why should this new charge of one per cent. on freight and insurance be imposed? Some four years ago the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question in Council:—"In view of the 'West Indian Colonies, including British Honduras and British Guiana, having recently passed resolutions throughout their legislatures condemning the Crown Agency system as an expensive and wasteful medium for the transaction of their business, and as a like feeling obtains amongst a large number of ratepayers in this colony, will the Government lay upon the table at the earliest possible date a copy of the Parliamentary paper C. 3,075, 1881, which is said to contain full information as to the arrangements existing between the Colonial Office and the Crown Agents?" The Colonial Secretary replied that he had written for the paper and would lay it on the table when it was received. The paper was in due time laid on the table, as promised, but it did not afford much enlightenment, beyond recording variations made in the charges from time to time. While we are left in this state of darkness a feeling obtains that the Crown Agency system is, as expressed by Mr. WHITEHEAD's resolution, expensive and wasteful. There is, indeed, some direct evidence to that effect. Dr. AYRES, when giving evidence before the Retrenchment Committee, said:—"On things coming through the Crown Agents we do not get them at anything like the prices we could get them ordering them in large quantities from mercantile firms 'at home.' The same is believed to apply to other descriptions of stores."

#### POINTS OF COMPANY LAW.

(Daily Press, 8th October.)

If the statement made by Mr. J. H. Cox at the meeting of the Hongkong Hotel Company on Thursday were correct, namely, that the holders of shares are not legally shareholders unless they sign the articles of association, it would follow that all the proceedings of Public Companies must be illegal, for, with the exception of the original subscribers, no one ever thinks of signing the articles, nor does there appear to be any provision of law by which they can do so. There is no occasion for alarm, however, for Mr. Cox is, to use the term he addressed to the chairman at the Hotel Company's meeting, quite wrong. The Ordinance provides that any seven or more persons may form an incorporated company subject to their subscribing their names to the memorandum of association; if there are articles of association those also are to be signed by each subscriber and "when registered they shall bind the company and the members thereof to the same extent as if each member had subscribed his name and affixed his seal thereto"—(section 16) from which it is evident that persons becoming members of the Company after its formation are not expected to sign the articles. But the matter is not left to inference, for section 22 defines the word "member." The subscribers to the memorandum of association are to be deemed to have become members of the company "and every other person who has agreed to become a member of a company under this ordinance, and whose name is entered on the register of members, shall be deemed to be a member of the company."

All duly registered shareholders of a Company are therefore members and stand in all respects on the same footing as the subscribers to the memorandum of association. The memorandum of association is essential to the formation of a company; the adoption of articles of association is optional. A company can, if it so elect, be governed by the regulations attached to the Ordinance which are provided for companies having no special articles of their own. If there are no articles of association it follows that no articles of association can be signed. Mr. Cox was equally wrong in his statement as to the quorum necessary for the passing of a special resolution. He expressed the opinion that three-fourths of the total number of shares must be represented. On what he bases that opinion we do not know, but if on section 50 of the Ordinance, which we think is the only section in which there is any reference to three-fourths, he will find on reading it more closely that it simply provides that a special resolution must be passed by a majority of three-fourths of the shareholders present at a meeting in person or by proxy; it does not refer to three-fourths of the whole body of shareholders or three-fourths of the whole number of shares. The proportion of the total number of shares that must be represented in order to pass a special resolution is governed by a company's articles of association, or, where there are no articles, by the regulations attached to the Ordinance.

(Daily Press, 14th October.)

If the legal points raised by Mr. J. H. Cox in connection with the recent meetings of the Hongkong Hotel Co. were made the subject of an action at law we have little doubt the lawyers would manage to make a two days' argument out of them, but we have equally little doubt as to what the decision would be. The construction to be placed upon legal documents is not an attractive subject for newspaper discussion, but as some public interest has been excited by the position taken up by Mr. Cox we will endeavour briefly to state the position as it presents itself to us, premising that Mr. Cox would have been well advised if in his speeches he had quoted chapter and verse for his authority, as he now does in his letter. Article 28, the first quoted by Mr. Cox, provides that every person to whom shares shall be transferred shall as to all duties, obligations, claims, and demands upon or against him in respect of such shares be considered a shareholder of the Company from the time of the shares being so transferred to him as aforesaid, "but as to all profits, rights, privileges, benefits, and advantages to arise from the same shares, no such person shall be considered as a shareholder in respect of the same until he shall have executed these presents." A court of law would hold, we think, that the signing of a deed containing a declaration that the transferee agreed to be bound by the articles of association was a sufficient execution of "these presents." The side-note contains the words "until they have signed articles of association," which is apparently what Mr. Cox has taken as his authority. Whatever purpose the drafter of the article may have had in his mind it was certainly not to create two classes of shareholders; it seems rather to have been by a cumbrous phraseology to make registration compulsory before dividends could be claimed. The interpretation clause is quite clear as to the meaning of "shareholders," namely, "the duly registered holders from time to time of the shares."



"of the company." Furthermore, it is one of Mr. Cox's points that articles of association cannot override the Ordinance, and the Ordinance leaves no room for doubt as to the rights and obligations of shareholders under and in respect to the articles of association. According to the Ordinance a duly registered shareholder enjoys the same rights as the original subscribers of the articles and is equally bound by their provisions.

As to the question of a majority of three-fourths or three-fifths being necessary to carry a special resolution, possibly Mr. Cox's opinion that there is a misprint in the articles of association may be correct, but the argument is rather a barren one, seeing that the resolution in question was passed by a much larger majority than three-fourths of those present at the meeting. When it is desired to challenge a resolution the articles of association prescribe the mode in which that may be done, namely, by demanding a poll. No poll was demanded at the meeting in question. Mr. Cox says, further, that the articles require three-fourths of the nominal capital to be represented at an extraordinary meeting. For that opinion we can find no warrant. Article 57 says that at least fifteen hundred shares shall be represented, but, as there are six thousand shares in all, that is only one fourth. From what he said at the meeting Mr. Cox apparently thinks that since the capital of the Company has been increased any figures occurring throughout the articles must be supposed to have been increased in the same proportion, according to which reasoning it would follow that the amount of the directors' fees should have been automatically increased, a conclusion which we fancy Mr. Cox will not be prepared to accept.

The remuneration of the directors is fixed, as Mr. Cox says, by article 88, which provides that "the directors shall be entitled 'to set apart and receive for their remuneration' such and such sums, but we cannot find any article which prohibits the shareholders voting any sum they think fit to the directors beyond that to which they are entitled as of right.

## THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

### GUARDS FOR THE LEGATIONS.

### ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE GOVERNOR DISMISSED.

### CHANG CHIH-TUNG IN DANGER.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]  
SHANGHAI, 9th October.

A special train on Friday morning took from Tientsin to Peking seventy Cossacks with thirty horses and a small field piece, twenty-five British marines with a machine gun, and thirty Germans, as guards for the Legations.

After a detention of three days on account of the objection of the Tsungli Yamen that the presence of foreign troops would disaffect the populace, the Foreign Ministers insisted on the necessity of protecting foreign residents and visitors at the capital and said they believed the presence of the troops would be beneficial and not create any danger of a general rising.

Twenty-five British blue jackets remain at Tientsin.

French, American, Japanese, and Italian guards follow.

An edict has been issued cashiering Chen, Governor of Hunan, for favouring the Reform party.

It is reported that Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hunan, is also in danger of being cashiered.

### ANOTHER IMPORTANT ARREST.

### THE EMPEROR REPORTED TO BE ALIVE.

### ANTI-FOREIGN APPOINTMENTS.

SHANGHAI, 10th October.

Wong Kung-du (formerly Chinese Consul at Singapore), lately designated Minister to Japan, was arrested yesterday at the Taotai's foreign residence, in accordance with a secret edict issued by the Empress Dowager. He awaits orders from Peking. It is feared that his sentence to death is certain.

It is believed in the best informed circles and in the Legations at Peking that the Emperor is alive.

The arrival of the Foreign Legation guards at Peking has produced an excellent effect.

It is noteworthy that the Empress Dowager's appointees are anti-foreign. There is now no member of the Tsungli Yamen who is conversant with foreign affairs.

### THE CHARGE AGAINST WONG KUNG-DU WITHDRAWN.

SHANGHAI, 12th September.

It is officially declared that the charge against Wong Kung-du is withdrawn. He remains at the Taotai's bureau and is reported to be sick.

### REPORTED DEATH OF CHANG YIN-HUAN.

### MURDERED BY ORDER OF THE EMPRESS.

Shanghai, 13th October.

It is credibly reported that Chang Yin-huan has been killed near Peking by secret order of the Empress Dowager.

[Chang Yin-huan was banished to Kashgaria and he was presumably on his way to his place of banishment when his murder took place.]

### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On 10th October a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the ACTING GOVERNOR, Major-General BLACK, C. B. (Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

#### PAPEES.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Principal Civil Medical Officer for 1897 and the report of the Injurious Liquors Commission; and also the report of the Finance Committee (No. 6), moving the adoption of the latter.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### THE SIGNBOARDS AT LODGING-HOUSES.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move the following resolution, which stands in my name:—That the following resolution passed by the Secretary Board on 22nd September, 1898, be approved by the Legislative Council:—That bye-laws 9 of the bye-laws made by the Board on the 13th day of March, 1891, and amended on the 2nd day of April, 1891, for the licensing, regulation, and sanitary maintenance of common lodging-houses, under sub-section 12 of section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 and sub-section 10 of section 1 of Ordin-

ance 26 of 1890, be revoked." The bye-law in question is that which refers to the placing of signboards outside common lodging-houses and to the keeping in the rooms of lodging-houses of a board showing the number of persons allowed to inhabit that room.

This was seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER and carried.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I rise to move the following:—Be it resolved by the Legislative Council that the percentages on the valuation of tenements, payable as rates, in the village of Hungghom be altered from 104 to 121 per cent, and in the village of Mong-koktsun from 9 to 11 per cent. This resolution proposes to add 12 per cent. to the rates now paid in these villages to meet the cost of gas-lighting, the mains having been extended to both these villages.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### NATURALISATION.

On the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalization of one Un Chung Wo alias Un Oi U alias Un Hi alias Un Kwok Hi was passed.

#### THE ESTIMATES.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding \$2,587,898 80 to the public service of the year 1899. I think it may expedite matters later on in the course of this meeting if I now make a few remarks upon this Bill and upon the estimates. The total estimated revenue for the year 1899 is \$2,886,137, and the total estimated expenditure chargeable against revenue \$2,874,271 80, leaving a balance on the budget in favour of revenue of \$11,865 20. A few points have occurred to me as requiring a little explanation in regard to these estimates. In the Colonial Secretary's department honourable members will notice that there are two more cadets provided for next year. At the examination held this year in London under the Indian Civil Service Regulations two cadets were to be selected. The next department which I shall deal with is the Post Office. Honourable members will notice that the expenditure at the Post Office for 1899 is estimated at \$25,000 more than the expenditure for the year 1898. There are various causes which account for the increase. There are the usual stipulated increments of salary; the extension of the business of the money order and registration branches has necessitated the appointment of new clerks; and two branch post offices have been opened, one at Kowloon and one in the western part of the city in the midst of the chief Chinese trading district. Rent has to be paid for these offices, and officials have been provided to manage them. Two probationers have also been appointed at very small salaries, so that when vacancies occur they may go into harness at once with some knowledge of the business. Our share of the mail subsidy has been increased and on account of the increase of business the transit charges are more. The next department to which I shall allude is the educational department. Honourable members will observe that the difference between the estimated expenditure for 1899 and the estimated expenditure for 1898 is \$6,000. I feel sure, Sir, that honourable members will concur in the action of the Government in establishing, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State, a public school at Kowloon. The cost of maintaining that school is put down at \$4,888. The rest of the extra expenditure in the education department is due to an increase in the Queen's College. That increase may be explained as follows:—One senior master resigned in the course of the year, and in order to carry out better the policy inaugurated by Sir William Robinson of giving Chinese an English education rather than an education in their own language, three junior grade masters have been appointed in lieu of one senior master. With regard to both these schools—Queen's College and Kowloon School—I wish to say that from Kowloon School it is anticipated that \$1,500 will be derived in fees, and that from the Queen's College, where the fees have lately been raised, it is anticipated that there will be an increase of some \$5,000. These two sums, amounting to \$6,500, more than cover the extra



expenditure contemplated in the education department. As to the medical department, the difference there is some \$4,500, and if honourable members will turn to page 35 of the details of expenditure and about a quarter down the page against the figure 4 they will see, "Provisions for patients," "Bedding and clothing," "Medical and surgical appliances." These show an increase of \$4,500, which is due to the fact that there are a larger number of patients—the Civil Hospital is better patronised, I hope by the Chinese—and also that the rate of exchange entails a larger expenditure in dollars than has hitherto been the case. Honourable members will remember that about this time last year, when the estimates were before them, the question of raising the fees for medical attendance in the Government Civil Hospital was gone into, and in accordance with the feeling of the Council at that time, the fees were raised, the increase dating from first January, 1898. The result is that the fees for 1898 have exceeded those for the previous year by \$5,000. With regard to the police department, there we have a difference of \$7,500 between the estimated expenditure for 1899 and the estimated expenditure for 1898. If honourable members will refer to page 38 of the details of expenditure they will see that for the detective force the sum has been increased from \$1,056 to \$2,124, which increase is explained in the foot-note as follows:—"Of the increase of \$1,068 \$960 is for European detectives, and the balance (\$168) is to admit of the detective allowance of \$2 a month being paid to the whole of the Chinese detective staff." I feel sure that the Council will agree that it is better, as recent events have shown, to endeavour to put your men out of the reach of a temptation to which unfortunately some have given way. Another reason for the increase is that in all police forces, nearly, I am given to understand, there is a distinction in pay between the detective force and the uniform force, and that the uniform force in Hongkong has opportunities of obtaining allowances—such as by joining the Fire Brigade—not open to the detective force. As it was desired to have the best men of the force in the detective branch the Government have thought it advisable to grant these allowances. The next items to which I would call attention are "Passages and bonuses in lieu of passage \$15,000" (against \$13,000), the increase being due to fall in exchange, and "Clothing and accoutrements \$12,000" (against \$10,000), also due to the fall in exchange. Then I come to the item "Temporary ration allowance to Indian police \$1,540-30. I may explain to the Council that some time ago the Indian police petitioned for a slight increase of pay, or at any rate for some increase in ration allowance, owing to the rise in the price of flour and other articles of food. The matter was considered by the Executive Council, and it was proposed to ask the Secretary of State to sanction this increase, which at present is only to be of a temporary nature. With regard to the sanitary department, there is a difference in the estimate for 1899 and that for 1898 of \$8,000. I believe no member of this Council will dissent from the view that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of the sanitation of the colony to increase our sanitary staff. It is in order to meet that increase that an extra expenditure for 1899 is essential and that you are asked to vote it. In 1898 we had one senior inspector and 12 other inspectors. For 1899 it is proposed to have one chief inspector from England, five first-class inspectors, six second class inspectors, and six third class inspectors, a staff which I believe is about equal to the staff employed in England at Newcastle-on-Tyne, a town where the population is less than that of Hongkong, and where the habits of the people and the nature of the climate render it not so necessary to have so big a staff as in Hongkong. If honourable members will turn to page 44 they will see the item, "To cover cost of general increase of salaries of Chinese employes \$14,000." Some time ago the Chinese employes of the Government petitioned for an increase of salary. That petition was referred to a small committee composed of the Honourable Colonial Treasurer, the Honourable Wei A Yuk, and Mr. Edward Osborne. Their report has gone home to the Secretary of State and was in favour of an in-

crease on a certain scale being granted to the Chinese employes. This increase when worked out totalled up to \$14,000, and it is hoped that there will be no opposition on the part of this Council to that vote being included in this year's Bill. With regard to public works recurrent, nothing occurs to me to which it is necessary to allude, and I pass on to the "Public works extraordinary." The powder magazine at Stonecutters Island (estimated cost \$50,000) is being built at the earnest request of the General Commanding the forces in the colony after an interchange of views between the Colonial Office and War Office. As to the item "Public Works department store \$18,000," you know that it is not safe to put anything in the dilapidated building used hitherto; it is therefore necessary that we should have another one, especially in view of the fact that it will probably be necessary to pull down Crosby's store to make way for the new Post Office. With regard to the item "No. 7 Police Station \$65,000," the amount was included in last year's estimate, and the sum of \$6,000 was provided last year to begin the reconstruction of this station, but it was found impossible to go on with the work, and it is hoped that this station, which is certainly in need of being re-built, will be commenced and carried through next year. With regard to the item "Chair shelter at the Peak \$4,300," as that matter is now being discussed in the press I will content myself with saying that it is with very great regret the Government has left it out. The estimated revenue only exceeds the estimated expenditure by \$11,865, which is a very narrow margin, and one which the Secretary of State will probably require to be increased. Therefore, it may be necessary to sacrifice other items. Another item in the "Public works extraordinary" is "Disinfector station and inspector's quarters \$12,000." The present disinfector is situated in a position near the quarters of the nursing sisters attached to the Government Civil Hospital, and is more or less of a nuisance to them, and it is proposed to transfer it to a site at Taipingshan and to build quarters for an inspector and coolies. As to the item "Two public latrines \$5,000," it may be passed over without any more remark, as the accommodation provided by such conveniences in the colony is very insufficient and should be increased. With regard to the "Washing tanks at Tai Hang \$4,400," at present I understand a good deal of public washing is done at Tai Hang in various pools up the same stream, and it is now proposed to put a series of tanks side by side so that every dhobie will get equally clean water. \$2,000 is provided for the placing of wells in villages not yet supplied with water. It is important that all places not yet reached by the water system should if possible have a good supply of fresh water, so that the sanitary state of villages may be improved. \$40,000 is provided towards the Governor's peak residence in accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State and \$16,000 towards laying out Farm Lot 1 and Training Nullah at Yaumati. The Crown rent on the old Farm Lot is as nothing compared with what will be received when houses are built upon it, and in addition the Government will be receiving rates. Provision is made for a new shed at the swine depot at Kennedytown. The depot is at present insufficient for the accommodation of the swine brought here and the sooner we can get the new shelter built the better, as it will be a remunerative undertaking. With these few remarks I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

The estimates were then referred to the Finance Committee. His Excellency vacating the chair for the time being and being succeeded by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—On page 36, I see "Police Magistrate and Coroner \$7,800," the estimate for this year \$7,200, and I see at the foot note "Reduction on new appointment." I should like to know whether the new appointment has been made.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I am as yet unable to state whether the new appointment has been made. The Secretary of State has had it in his mind to reduce the salary on the new appointment being made to \$500 a month. That is to make the salary the same as that of the office of Chief Magis-

trate at Singapore, and this Government has made representations that in the event of the Police Magistrate and Coroner being one and the same person the sum of \$7,200 would probably be more just. However, the matter has not yet been decided by the Secretary of State, and as he has not sent to us a definite answer we have put our recommendation in the estimates.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—And is it the intention of the Government to increase the number of Magistrates from one to two?

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have heard of no intimation to that effect.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Under the heading "Miscellaneous services" I see the item "Commission to Crown agents, \$1,600 in 1898 and \$2,500 for 1899," and I observe a foot note, "Increase on account of Crown agents' charge of 1 per cent. on freight and insurance of stores." I should like to have some explanation on this subject.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—When the Crown agents put this charge of 1 per cent. on freight and insurance I, as Treasurer, protested against it on the ground that it was not in accordance with the regulations and that it was a charge contrary to all commercial practice. The Secretary of State, however, will not relieve us from this commission.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Are there any returns for freight and insurance?

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not think there is.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I believe there are returns. Do we get them or do the Crown agents?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I have never seen any.

It was decided that the Acting Colonial Secretary should enquire as to this return.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—On the same page is an item Exchange Compensation for 1898, \$85,000, whilst the estimate for 1899 is put down at \$95,000. How is this arrived at?

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—We fix the dollar at 1s. 11d. this year. Last year it was fixed at 1s. 9d.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Then the item ought to have been less.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—It ought to have been less but there may be more receiving compensation, and the figures for 1898 now probably under estimated.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Surely not to that extent.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY promised to give the unofficial members the particulars.

The Council subsequently resumed, His Excellency returning to the chair.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to report that the Appropriation Bill for 1899 has been considered by the Finance Committee and that there are no objections to the items. I now have the honour to move that this Council go into committee on the Bill and consider it clause by clause.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

The Bill having been considered in committee the Council again resumed, and on the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

### THE ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS COMMISSION.

The following report of the Alcoholic Liquors Commission was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 10th October:—

Hongkong, 12th August.

We, the undersigned members of the Commission appointed on the 14th day of February, 1898, to enquire into and report on the importation into Hongkong, and the manufacture and sale in Hongkong of alcoholic liquors of all kinds and into the operation of the laws regulating the same, and to ascertain whether any and what descriptions of crude, inferior, adulterated, or deleterious liquors are manufactured, or sold, and by whom and to what extent, and what measures may usefully be taken to improve the laws and to check the importation, manufacture, and sale in licensed houses and elsewhere of such crude, inferior, adulterated, or injurious



liquors, have the honour to forward herewith the evidence taken by us and our opinion thereon.

2.—The Commission was appointed because there was a strong opinion in some quarters that deleterious liquors were being sold in the colony, which were doing a great deal of mischief to soldiers and sailors. After the second meeting of the Commission on the 25th February, Mr. Wodehouse, Dr. Hartigan, and Mr. McCallum left the colony, so, in order to complete the investigation, it was necessary to ask the Government to appoint others so as to enable a quorum of members to be present at the sittings of the Commission. Captain Hastings, R.N., was appointed a member and Chairman in place of Mr. Wodehouse, and the other two vacancies were not filled up. Subsequently, with but three members it was found to be impossible on two occasions to have a quorum present, so an additional member was asked for and Dr. F. O. Stedman was appointed.

3.—With a view to obtaining the fullest information on the objects of this enquiry, questions were sent to the Deputy Inspector-General of Fleets and Hospitals, Hongkong, Colonel The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., The Principal Medical Officer of H. M. Forces, Hongkong, The Principal Civil Medical Officer, Hongkong, Mr. Lawford (Secretary to the Commodore), The Managers of the China Sugar Refinery, to all Chinese holders of distillery licences, and to one foreign Consul. It has been found necessary to examine two witnesses and to hold four meetings. In view of the reasons assigned for the sixty-seven cases of alcoholism that occurred during 1897 in the Government Civil Hospital we did not think it necessary to call the Principal Civil Medical Officer before the Commission.

4.—At the first meeting on the 22nd February last, we requested the Secretary to draw up a report on the manufacture and composition of the Chinese liquors known as samshu, also to visit the Chinese distilleries and report upon the quality of the materials used.

5.—As regards importation we have evidence that a quantity of cheap liquors are brought into this colony. We have evidence also that because these liquors are cheap it does not follow that they must be made from crude, inferior, or decayed materials. Manufactured from good spirit there is a large profit on the liquors which are sold at 20 cents a bottle. Moreover, analysis has shown that these cheap liquors do not contain deleterious substances, but that they lack flavour, body, and aroma, and that they contain less fusel oil than genuine spirits. The tests to which liquors are subjected in the Government Laboratory are sufficiently severe to warrant the Government Analyst passing them as harmless, and this opinion is entirely supported by the medical evidence received by us and by the records of the amount of drunkenness in the colony. There is no ground whatever for the assertion that there exist in Hongkong deleterious liquors of which a small quantity produces sudden and temporary insanity in the consumer, or the appearance of having been drugged.

6.—Patent-still spirit from the China Sugar Refinery and the Chinese liquors known as samshu are the only liquors manufactured in Hongkong. The former is of good quality, and the composition of the principal Chinese liquors—Leu Pui Chan, Sheung Ching Chau, and Sam Ching Chau—together with the knowledge from inspection that only sound materials are used in the samshu distilleries, is sufficient to justify our opinion that the effect of drinking these Chinese liquors is practically the same as that produced by whiskey of the same strength. The high proportion of compound ethers in samshu will afford a means of ascertaining its presence in liquors should it be suspected from its odour. Although samshu is the national drink of the Chinese, drunkenness amongst them is conspicuous by its absence.

7.—It appears that a few years ago it was customary for beach-combers to frequent a place at the corner of Upper Lascar Row known as "Samshu Corner," and there to drink samshu, but no drinking in this quarter in recent years has been noticed.

8.—There appear to be no grounds for dissatisfaction either with the general conduct of Hongkong public-houses or with the Police

supervision of these houses. Drunkenness in this colony amongst the European population is not in excess of the amount found in other ports and cities. The analysis of thirty-one samples of the cheapest liquors has shown that such liquors are not crude, inferior, or adulterated,\* so that we fail to find that any evil whatever exists as regards the conduct of the liquor traffic of the colony.

\* Since the evidence of the Government Analyst was taken a number of samples have been submitted for analysis and four prosecutions have been instituted for adulteration (deficiency of strength).

9.—It does not appear to us to be compatible with the public safety that The Food and Drugs Ordinance, No. 18 of 1896, should be a dead letter, and we recommend that steps be taken in order that largely increased numbers of samples may be examined in the Government Laboratory, so that as much as possible may be done to prevent the sale of any adulterated or deleterious liquors.

10.—As all the evidence collected has shown that the drunkenness here is due to the quantity and not to the quality of the liquor consumed, we are of opinion that the cheapness of liquor is conducive to the increase of drunkenness. As samshu is very cheap, legislation should be undertaken so that this liquor or any liquor containing samshu may not be sold either directly or indirectly to Europeans.

11.—It is essential that the holders of public-house licences should be persons of good character, and as cases have occurred in which householders have been guarantors for a person wholly unfit to hold a licence, it is desirable that the fullest information should be obtained as to the character of the applicant for such a licence.

12.—We are of opinion that the number (twenty-three) of public-houses now licensed in the colony is amply sufficient for present needs. We have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servants,

WM. C. H. HASTINGS,

Chairman.

JNO. J. FRANCIS, Q.C. (I desire to call special attention to Mr. Browne's evidence, p. 17 and the first sixteen lines of p. 18—another Analyst or Apothecary is sorely needed.)

R. F. COBOLD, M.A.

F. O. STEDMAN, M.D., B.S., London.  
His Excellency Major-General Wilsone Black,  
C.B., Acting Governor, Hongkong.

### THE VICTORIA JUBILEE ROAD.

The following letter has been addressed to us by the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works:—

Public Works Office,  
Hongkong, 11th October, 1898.

Sir,—The construction of the proposed carriage road round the island of Hongkong is a matter in which the whole public without exception naturally take a very great interest, especially those who subscribed towards the Jubilee Memorial of Her Majesty's Reign.

2.—Being intimately acquainted with the matter in all its bearings, I have obtained the permission of Government to address you, and through you the public, including I should hope all or nearly all of the subscribers.

3.—The necessity for this arises from the fact that owing to what I may term an unfortunate resolution passed at a meeting of the Jubilee Committee on April 26th, 1897, and subsequent to which subscriptions towards the proposed memorials were received, the Committee feel bound to a course of action which seems most undesirable in the interests of all concerned, as I hope to be able presently to demonstrate.

4.—That resolution was as follows:—"That the money so collected together with an equal amount promised by the Colonial Government be deposited at interest in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in the name of the Jubilee Committee, and be disbursed by them after paying for the local celebrations—one half towards the erection of the Hospital for Women and Children, and the training of nurses, and the other half towards the construction of the first section of the carriage road from Kennedytown to Aberdeen, which the Government undertakes to

commence forthwith and to carry on the remaining portion of the road until completed."

5.—I emphasize the portion of the resolution which I term unfortunate in view of further experience and the present aspect of the question.

6.—I understand that legal opinion has been taken and that it is considered, as matters now stand, that work can only be commenced on the section of road between Kennedytown and Aberdeen and that until that section is completed nothing can be done towards constructing a carriage road between Aberdeen, Stanley, and Shauiwan. But, at the same time, I believe it is admitted that a general meeting of subscribers can, if so disposed, or if it is the wish of the majority, rescind the latter portion of the above resolution, and leave it open to the Jubilee Committee, at whose disposal it must be understood the money now lies, to sanction commencement of the work elsewhere.

7.—Bearing in mind that what was desired was a carriage road round the island, the existing road from the city by Pokfulam to Aberdeen should not be ignored. The rise from Queen's Road level to Caine Road or Benham Road is necessarily steep, but the distance is short and the hill is by no means impracticable; from this to some distance beyond "Douglas Castle" the gradients are easy; then a short steep hill occurs, but one that can easily and at no great expense be improved; so that even now we have a fairly good carriage road six miles in length from the city to some distance beyond the Paper Mills at Aberdeen. By beginning at Shauiwan or Aberdeen, or at both, the desired end would be much more rapidly attained than in any other way, and then would come the time to consider whether a level road round Mount Davis was worth the expense.

8.—A carriage road has been traced round the island, at such gradients as will meet with the approval of drivers, riders, and cyclists, an estimate has been framed and plans drawn, and it only remains to call for tenders and enter into contracts to ensure the work of construction being actively pushed on.

9.—The total length between Shauiwan and Kennedytown is a little over 18½ miles, which for convenience of working has been divided into three sections, namely, Shauiwan to Stanley 7 miles, Stanley to Aberdeen 6 miles, Aberdeen to Kennedytown 5½ miles. The estimated cost of these sections respectively is \$114,170.20, \$95,406.00, and \$145,612.80; total for the whole road \$355,189.00, or an average of \$19,199 per mile.

10.—The shortest section is much more difficult than either of the others; it passes along the precipitous rock-bound coast at the base of Mount Davis, involving an enormous amount of rock blasting and building, which is clearly indicated by the difference in estimated cost. Thus the average cost per mile from Shauiwan to Stanley is \$16,310, from Stanley to Aberdeen \$15,901, and from Aberdeen to Kennedytown \$26,475.

11.—The money now lying in the bank towards the construction of the road is about \$92,000. This would suffice to make four miles from Shauiwan towards Stanley, or nearly to Tytam Tuk, and two miles from Aberdeen towards Stanley to Deep-water Bay, the latter two miles including the reclamation of the Aberdeen tidal flat of evil repute, the bug-bear of Magazine Gap; or it would make the whole of No. 2 Section from Aberdeen to Stanley.

12.—The six miles I indicate first would provide a nearly level carriage road from Aberdeen to Deep-water Bay golf links, doing away with the steep circuitous existing bridle path by Little Hongkong, and at the other end would provide a carriage road of easy gradients from Shauiwan to Tytam Tuk, thus avoiding some of the steepest and worst parts of the existing path round the island.

13.—In fact if (owing to lack of funds) nothing more was done for years, the circuit round the island would be enormously improved. The driver of carriages would have a good road from Victoria via Pokfulam and Aberdeen about 8 miles in length to Deep-water Bay golf links, and on the other side an equally good road from Victoria to Tytam Tuk, the centre of probably the most beautiful part of the colony, 10½ miles in length, while to the average cyclist the



circuit of the whole island would be an easy matter, as the only portion of the old road to be negotiated would be that from Deep-water Bay to Tytam Tuk, quite half of which is easy going.

14.—I repeat that if the latter part of the above quoted resolution is rescinded, and the Committee give the Government a free hand, the money now in the bank will suffice to substitute for six of the worst and most difficult miles of the existing path, six miles of smooth well graded carriage road 18 feet in width.

15.—Now to look at the other side. The money in the bank will pay for the making of about 3½ miles from Kennedytown towards Aberdeen, say to form a junction between the large Plague Cemetery and the Sandy Bay Plague Cemetery, useful I will admit should there unfortunately be again necessity to enlarge and extend these burial grounds, but scarcely the drive that ladies and children—or jaded city workers would select, bearing in mind that it is exposed to the full glare of the afternoon and evening sun and that it would lead nowhere but would have to be retraced in returning.

16.—Years would probably elapse before the \$53,000 odd still necessary to complete this one section to Aberdeen could be spared from general revenue, and I may safely predict that none of the present generation would see the sections from Aberdeen to Stanley and Stanley to Shaokwan opened to traffic.

17.—Whether it would be wise to render 5 miles of rock-bound coast, defended now by nature from the lading of enemies, more accessible to a possible foe, is a question for military experts; common sense seems to point to leaving it alone.

18.—I therefore, sir, would urge through your columns the calling together of a public meeting and a fresh expression of opinion on the part of the majority of the subscribers as to the disposal of the fund.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

R. D. ORMSBY,  
Director of Public Works.

### THE CHARGE AGAINST LETTER-CARRIERS.

#### EVIDENCE OF THE CHIEF CLERK.

At the Magistracy on 7th Oct., before Commander Hastings, Cheng Tsang, aged 49, formerly employed as a letter-carrier, was charged on remand with unlawfully detaining letters on the 18th September. Inspector Moffat conducted the case for the prosecution and Mr. Brutton appeared for the defence.

The case for the prosecution was continued.

William John Solly, chief clerk at the Post Office, said defendant had been a postman for at least 15 years and had borne a good character. Witness saw the letter produced and marked "A" in defendant's room on the 18th September, witness being in the adjoining room with Inspector Moffat when the letter was found. The shroff in the Money Order Office shared the room with defendant. The city of Victoria was divided into four districts for postal purposes. The postmen changed districts once every three months. Defendant's duty was principally to take charge of all Chinese correspondence and to arrange for its distribution. He had three postmen to assist him in sorting the Chinese letters. No. 2 postman worked under the control of No. 1. If a letter was brought back it would be handed to him and he would hand it to the comprador for reference. It would not be sent out a second time but would be advertised in the *Government Gazette*. After advertising the letter for two months it was returned to the office of origin. Very rarely were letters advertised claimed. Defendant was in the habit of giving him undelivered letters. He could not remember the date when he last handed any such letters to him but he had received letters from him within the last three months. He first saw the letter marked "B" on the 18th September in defendant's room. It had no business to be there. The endorsement "unclaimed" on the letter marked "A" was done by witness after defendant's case had been dealt with by the Postmaster. The Postmaster dealt with the case on the 19th September, and he endorsed the letters marked "A," "B," "C," and "D" on the same

day or the next. There was a fifth letter found in defendant's room on the 18th ult. It was opened but was stamped. As far as he remembered there was a Chinese stamp on it. The letter had since been sent on to Canton. He did not know where the letter came from. Defendant had no right to have that or any other letters in his room. The letter must have been taken out and an endeavour made to deliver it in Hongkong. The regular course would be for the letter to be taken to the Hongkong address, and on its being refused it would be brought back and handed to defendant. In the event of a letter not being delivered the postman, if the office was closed, could hand it to the head messenger or take it to his (witness's) quarters. The postmen had been told not to take such letters to their rooms. Such letters had occasionally been brought to his quarters, but the postmen were usually too lazy to bring them there. He lived in Wyndham Street. There were rules for the postmen in English and Chinese. He produced a copy. He produced the postcard given to him by Sergeant Collett in defendant's room on the 18th ult. It should not have been in defendant's room under any circumstances unless there was a mistake in the Chinese characters. The postcard was marked "unclaimed," and no effort was made to trace the address (the postcard being addressed to a vessel). They satisfied themselves that the ship was not in harbour by consulting the papers. In the case of a letter like that coming addressed to an officer of a ship it was delivered on board if the ship was in harbour. If not it was advertised. The fifth letter found in defendant's room did not look as if it had been steamed in order that it might be opened.

On being cross-examined by Mr. Brutton, witness said that if a postman was away for any cause they put an ordinary messenger in his place. No. 1 messenger was authorised to receive undelivered letters brought in after dark, but No. 1 messenger was not No. 1 postman. In the absence of the head messenger and himself there were no instructions as to what should be done with these undelivered letters. He did not remember the address of the firm to which the fifth letter was to be delivered. A great many Chinese letters were received without stamps, the stamps having come off in the bag. He had known cases where Chinese envelopes had come open in the office after they had been there for some time. He attributed this to the gum wearing off. He did not remember to whom the fifth letter was sent in Canton. He had been told when letters had been returned to him that the people had refused to take them. This was usually in cases where the addressee could not read and also in cases where letters were addressed under cover. After the investigation into these letters on the 16th September a fine of \$1 was imposed and entered in the default book, but it was cancelled on the case coming before the court. He could show who was on duty on the 4th of May last in Stanley Street.

8th October.

The case for the prosecution was continued.

Lam Yan Po, sergeant interpreter, said he was on duty in the charge room at the Central Police Station at noon on the 21st September when defendant was brought in. After he had been charged and duly cautioned defendant voluntarily made the following statement: "I took care of these letters. The shops were all closed. I forgot to take them back to the office as I was very busy."

In reply to Mr. Brutton, witness said he was not sure whether defendant said some of the letters were refused.

Answering the Magistrate, witness said he took down every word that the defendant said. It was before he was cautioned that defendant said some of the letters were refused.

Sergeant Collett, recalled, said that on the morning of the 19th September he went to the General Post Office and looked at the letters found in defendant's room. They were then in Mr. Solly's office. He made a note of the address on the letter found opened said to have been since sent to Canton. It was "Care of the Wing Yuen, Hongkong, to be forwarded to Canton." He did not take the address's name at Canton. There was no stamp on. The letter bore the Singapore post-mark, the date being July 15th. He had since been to

the premises of the Wing Yuen, at 129, Praya Central. In the drawer where he found the letters were also some small Chinese basins such as were used for tea. Some of them were wet. There was also a lot of rubbish in the drawer—such as bits of paper and pieces of books—and the letters were on the top.

11th October.

Defendant was committed for trial.

The case against another postman—Lie Ho—for detaining a letter was then re-heard.

W. J. Solly, chief clerk at the Post Office, said defendant had been employed at the Post Office for three years, and had been of a uniformly good character. He was present when the letter produced was found in defendant's room at the Post Office on September 18th. It bore no Hongkong post-mark. The letter was received in May, when defendant was on No. 4 district, to which it was addressed. Defendant could not explain how the letter came to be in his room. Witness reported him to the Postmaster, who fined him 10 cents. The fine had since been cancelled.

Fung Yung Sam Kwo, of 48, Stanley Street, said she had been living there for ten years. The letter produced was addressed to her, and was from a friend at Singapore, who had previously written to her. If the letter had been brought to her house she would have received it, and if she had been absent the other inmates in the house would have received it for her.

The case was adjourned for the production of another witness not in the colony.

12th October.

Inspector Moffat said he was not prepared to go on with the case, as a witness whom he wished to call had not come back yet. An adjournment was accordingly granted.

### BURNING OF THE BERLIN MISSIONARY SOCIETY'S SCHOOL AT CANTON.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the Rev. A. Kollecker's Report of the mission schools connected with the Berlin Missionary Society in China, for the years 1897-98, in which an interesting account is given of the Society's work. In the year 1896 the Society sustained one theological seminary, one middle school, two station and thirteen day schools with 312 pupils. Last year there were twenty day schools with 387 pupils.

The Society has recently met with an unfortunate loss by the burning of one of its establishments. Mr. Kollecker writes:—

At the time when I was writing the new report for this year, we met with an accident, which has caused a temporary suspension of our work in Canton.

It was on the night of the 5th of August when we were roused by loud cries in the street next our house. We hurried to the window and saw two small shops on the east side of our house in flames. It must have burnt a long time before, for the houses were one mass of flame from the ground to the top. Our neighbours are to be blamed that they did not alarm us in time. We were terrified when we saw the flames rising up to our girls' school, which was built in connection with our own house. I hurried to rouse the few sleepers in our compound. It happened very fortunately that nearly all the pupils had left Canton.

We could not get water enough and in a few minutes the guest chamber in the upper part of the school house was filled with smoke. Rev. G. Scholz bravely entered the room with a pail of water but he had great difficulty in returning, for he could not find the door and was nearly suffocated by the smoke. Some time later he went in once more and by the light of his burning bed he was able to save the protocols of the Conference.

I ran to the street, but tried in vain to get the help of some hand fire-engines. The fire-engine pumping station, which is near our house, sent not one drop of water. That and the fact that a strong wind was blowing directly towards our houses made it impossible to save much. At two o'clock the roof of our house was on fire and at three o'clock all the houses of our compound, the Chapel, the Middle-school, the house for the teachers, the Girls' school and our own house were in flames. The whole



library of the station, the valuable apparatus of the science department of the school and the manuscripts of the school text-books were lost.

It was a sad sight to see the flames raging in those rooms, where we had been happy so many years. At four o'clock our house was a glowing mass, and a large Chinese hong and some houses were set on fire by our house. Though the fire-engine was now sending plenty of water, it was hard to stop the fire.

While we were in this sad plight Dr. Swan arrived to help and console us, and soon after the German Consul-General, Dr. Knappe, came to the scene, showing us his sympathy in every way. In his practical manner he brought a basket filled with refreshments, which were most acceptable as we were worn out, hungry and thirsty. We were also refreshed and comforted by the kindness of many friends, who helped us in a most generous manner. We even do not know the names of all, but improve this occasion to return our heartiest thanks and pray God to bless them all.

The pupils, sent home in April, when the plague was raging round our house, were expected back in a few days, but their holidays have been prolonged till we have found a convenient place for them. That is a great pity as our schoolwork here in Canton was very flourishing and as this is quite the time for such schoolwork in China.

### SUBMISSION OF VISAYAS REBELS.

Senor José de Navarro, Spanish Consul, has received official information that the chief of the Visayas rebels with thirty-eight sub-chiefs and about 4,000 men submitted unconditionally to the Spanish Government on the 9th inst. and acknowledged the authority of the Governor-General of the islands. His Excellency has announced through the Spanish officers Pauli and Concepcion an ample forgiveness and has recommended every one to return to his home and resume his customary work. The Governor-General at the same time promises to establish a Council for reforms in Visayas, composed of influential persons of the country.

### POLO.

The third match of the quarterly tournament for the Hon. F. H. May's Cup was played on Wednesday, the 5th Oct., between the R.A. and a Subalterns' team of the K.O.R., an excellent game being the result, the R.A. not having things quite so much their own way, as some had anticipated. The K.O.R. played a good uphill game, their match against the Club team having evidently shaken them into their places, their combination being better than it was on that occasion. There having been some 5 inches of rain during the previous thirty-six hours it was thought until mid day that play would have been out of the question, but the R.A. having evinced a desire to play, a committee of three playing members not taking further part in the tournament were requested on behalf of the R.A. and K.O.R. to assemble on the ground at 4.30 p.m. and decide whether it was fit for play, and they found that thanks to the zealous care and attention that had been bestowed upon the ground during the day there was nothing to prevent the game from being proceeded with. The R.A. team was not quite so strong as the announcement in the morning's paper had led us to expect, Wilkinson taking Thwaites's place, the teams being as under:—

R.A.		K.O.R. SUBALTERNs.	
Mr. Wilkinson	1	Mr. Woodgate	
Capt. Simonds	2	" Molony	
" Tancock	3	" Morrah	
" Burney	4	" Johnson	

Some delay was occasioned at the start owing to ignorance of Rule No. 19 of the Indian Polo Association. From the throw in Simonds got away, but was stopped by a nice back hander from Molony. Shortly after Burney took the ball up to the K.O.R. goal, who were then defending the goal at the Stables end, in front of which there was some desultory play out of which the ball having been nicely centred for him, Burney scored the first goal with a fine back hander. From the throw in the combined K.O.R. team forced the ball behind the R.A. goal line. From the hit in Tancock took the ball up to the K.O.R. goal, but Johnson saved nicely, and Morrah got away, but the ball went

out of play. From the throw in Wilkinson took the ball up towards the K.O.R. goal, but Molony stopped him neatly. Shortly after this Burney got an opening but failed to score. This was followed by a beautiful run by Johnson, but he could not keep the ball in play. A little later Burney galloped right up into his front rank, the temptation of a "sitter" having proved too much for him, but was just too late and so let in Molony, who got away and had everything his own way, but failed to score. From the hit in Burney made a fine run and Simonds took the ball right up to K.O.R. goal, but nothing was scored. After changing ponies Johnson failed at the hit in and Tancock promptly added another goal to the R.A. Score. On changing goals the play was slow for a time, until Johnson cleared with a fine run, only just failing to score. Simonds defending with a back hander which struck a pony, the ball falling dead in front of the R.A. goal, Molony's pony kicking the ball through on the point of time, making the score, R.A. 2 goals, King's Own Subalterns 1 goal.

As the light, which had been bad throughout, was now failing rapidly the second chucker was commenced almost at once and was opened by a fine run from Johnson. Burney, however, proving unpassable. The game became a bit slow for a time until a free hit for off-side on the part of Simonds was given against the R.A. Johnson took the hit and got clear away and the K.O.R. carried the ball behind the R.A. goal line. After the hit in the game was slow for a time, and from a scrumage in front of the K.O.R. goal the R.A. scored another goal. From the throw in Johnson made another brilliant run and looked like scoring, but again Burney prevented it. From this point the game became desultory and was finished in almost darkness. Shouts of "Where's the ball?" were of frequent occurrence. However, just on the close of time Tancock scored another goal for the R.A., making them winners by four goals to one.

Johnson and Burney both showed fine play. The latter at times seemed to be having rather a trying time of it with the attention required by Landsknecht and that devoted to him by Woodgate, who played a hard and unselfish game which promises well, but this young player needs more experience of fast matches, the ordinary club quarters being the worst possible school for fast polo. Tancock, too, showed how the position of No. 3 should be played and, considering how seldom he has been seen on the polo ground in Hongkong showed wonderful form.

Simonds played in good form but showed want of practice from being away in Japan. For the "Kings Own" Johnson played the best and at times made brilliant runs, but he in common with the others showed great want of accuracy in hitting, the ball being shot from side to side and not straight forward, and therefore seconds were lost in each run which allowed the opposing players to close in. Again and again there were chances at the R.A. goal that a little more careful practice in hitting would have converted into certainties. They often also failed to ride their opposing numbers. However, the subalterns deserve great credit for the game they put up and they showed great pluck in entering their team for the tournament.

Capt. Laurie, A.D.C., acted as umpire and Capt. Des Voeux as time keeper.

MAFOO.

The final tie of the September polo tournament between the Royal Artillery and the first team of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment was played on the ground at Causeway Bay at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 7th Oct., and ended in a victory for the Infantry by 3 goals and 1 subsidiary to 2 goals.

The teams were composed as follows:—

ROYAL ARTILLERY.		KING'S OWN.	
Lieut. Wilkinson	1	Major Gawne	
Capt. Simonds	2	Capt. McLachlan	
" Tancock	3	" Patton	
" Burney	back	" Laurie	

The Infantry won the toss and elected to defend the goal at the nullah end. Immediately the ball was thrown in it was secured by Capt. McLachlan, who, making a fine run down the ground, secured the first goal for the King's

Own. This was a piece of good luck, as the ball cannoned off one of the adversary's pony's legs.

On change of ends Capt. Laurie succeeded in adding another goal to the Infantry score. The R.A. then began to press their opponents and the ball was kept up near the Infantry goal, when Capt. Simonds, seeing his opportunity in a scrumage, put the ball through the posts and so secured the first goal for the R.A.

What might have been a very nasty accident occurred shortly afterwards. Capt. Tancock colliding with Capt. Laurie, his pony fell, bringing his rider to the ground. Capt. Simonds' pony fell over him, but luckily Capt. Tancock was able to roll clear and no one was hurt.

The second quarter was begun with 9 minutes and 14 seconds to play. The gunners began to press their opponents and the ball was kept up at the Infantry end of the ground for some time. Several long shots were made by the gunners, but without success. On the ball's being hit out the last time, Capt. Patton got hold of it and making a brilliant run up the ground secured a subsidiary for the Infantry. It was unfortunate shortly after this that some of the gunners got off side and so enabled the Infantry to get a free hit from the centre of the ground, which resulted in Capt. Laurie scoring another goal for his side. Capt. Burney had bad luck here in breaking his stick and was unable to defend the gunners' goal at the crucial moment.

On change of ends Capt. Simonds and Lieut. Wilkinson between them rushed the ball up to the Infantry goal, when it was put through by Capt. Tancock. Shortly after this time was called.

The game was a good one, and the gunners made a fight of it to the end, but the Infantry showed a better combination and were better mounted than their opponents. Major Gawne as No. 1 played a very steady game indeed and gave Captain Burney more trouble than he cared for. Capt. MacLachlan and Patton were invaluable to their team, and Capt. Laurie never played better. For the R.A. Capt. Burnie and Tancock played an excellent game, the latter shewing that he is by no means a baby at the business. The gunners are unfortunate in losing this most valuable player, who leaves the garrison almost at once. Capt. Simonds assisted his side ably, and Lieut. Wilkinson gave his opponents' back no little work to do. It was fortunately a fine afternoon and many people took advantage of the hospitality of the Regiment, who were "at home" on the ground. It was a pity there was no music.

SCRIBET.

### SHOOTING.

#### HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The October carbine competition for the "Captain Francis Carbine Challenge Cup" resulted in an easy win for the Field Battery team, who defeated the A Machine Gun Co. team by 61 points. Appended are the scores:—

#### FIELD BATTERY.

	200	400	500	Total.
	yards.	yards.	yards.	
Sergeant Rutter	28	29	32	89
Sergeant Hayward	30	30	29	88
Acting Corpl. Gow	27	30	28	85
Gunner Donaldson	25	31	27	83
B.-S.-M. Duncan	26	29	23	78
Actg. Bomb. Hart	28	29	17	74
Act. Sgt. Dmr. Brown	28	25	20	73
Bomb. Deas	17	32	15	64

Total ... 209 235 190 634

#### A MACHINE GUN CO.

	200	400	500	Total.
	yards.	yards.	yards.	
Corporal Skelton	30	35	30	95
Sergeant Lammert	31	30	29	90
Gunner Holmes	27	26	24	77
Sergeant Crombie	29	27	19	75
Captain Sanders	26	12	23	61
Lieut. Fullerton	24	16	20	60
Corporal Underwood	19	24	16	59
Gunner Barrett	23	22	11	56

Total ... 209 192 172 573

The A Machine Gun Co.'s monthly carbine competition for the cups and spoons was fired at the same time as the above match. The No. 1 cup was won by Corporal Skelton with



the excellent net score of 95, which included a "possible" at 400 yards. The No. 2 cup fell to Gunner Holmes, a promising young shot, who scored 94, including 17 points handicap.

### THE HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Fifteen members took part in the weekly competition on Saturday last. Below are the scores handed in:—

	200	300	600	H'cap.	Total
Mr. Skelton*	29	33	33	—	95
Mr. Watson*	34	29	30	—	93
Sgt. Bowery, R.E.*	29	28	35	—	92
Cor. Leadingham, R.E.	27	31	32	—	90
Mr. W. Robertson	28	28	26	6	84
Sapper Clarke, R.E.	30	26	30	—	86
Mr. Marshall	28	32	26	—	86
Mr. A. Read	27	27	25	4	83
Corpl. Hills, R.E.	30	24	24	—	78
Mr. W. Macdonald	27	29	22	—	78
Capt. Swan	30	14	25	6	75
Mr. Stackwood	28	14	24	6	72
Mr. Beck	28	22	21	—	71
Mr. Diggins	28	17	12	6	63

\* Winners of Spoons.

### THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

#### CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR OCTOBER.

Considering the wretched weather which prevailed on two of the three days of the above competition, the attendance of members was good. On the third day two of the greens were under water and play impossible. Subjoined are the returns handed in, which, for reasons given above, are not very brilliant. The winner of the cup and pool was fortunate in playing round on the first day of the meeting, his card including 9 fives and 4 fours:—

#### CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Lieut. B. V. Brooke, R.N.	95	8	87
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	97	8	89
Capt. E. Burnie	113	21	92
Mr. W. J. Gresson	118	18	93
Mr. W. J. Saunders	105	11	94

20 entries.

#### POOL.

Lieut. B. V. Brooke, R.N.	95	8	87
Lt. A. J. McKenzie Grieve, R.N.	98	8	90
Mr. D. Hay, R.N.	106	12	94
Mr. E. F. Mackay	105	11	94
Mr. C. H. Grace	106	9	97

21 entries.

### HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The six-a-side competition, for which six teams have entered, started on Friday and will be played right through before the regular season commences. The teams are as follows:—

H. S. Moberly (capt.)	P. G. Davies, R.A. (capt.)
F. H. Kew	— Hudson, R.A.
H. C. R. Hancock	H. Pinckney
T. Yule	W. Wilkinson, R.A.
A. R. Lowe	— Loring, R.A.
P. W. Hornby	H. Grant Smith
H. W. Looker (capt.)	W. A. L. Lethbridge (capt.)
A. S. Anton	— Shawell, R.A.
E. E. Deacon	H. B. Bedwell, R.N.
W. M. Humphreys	H. A. Seth
J. Brooke Smith	C. S. Stockwell
H. Arthur	— Holmes
J. E. Noble (capt.)	E. F. Mackay (capt.)
C. T. Kew	W. W. Howard
G. W. Millward	G. H. N. Lexton
J. D. Danby	B. Maryatt, R.N.
P. A. Cox	— Castle, R.A.
W. Armstrong	— Holmes

The following are the dates fixed for the matches, which will be played on two grounds, beginning not later than 5.15

Fri. Oct. 14, Moberley v. Mackay.
Tues. " 18, Moberley v. Davies; Lethbridge v. Looker.
Thurs. Oct. 20, Mackay v. Lethbridge; Noble v. Davies.
Mon. Oct. 24, Looker v. Noble; Moberley v. Lethbridge.
Tues. Oct. 25, Davies v. Mackay.
Wed. " 26, Moberley v. Noble.
Thurs. " 27, Looker v. Davies.
Fri. " 28, Lethbridge v. Mackay.
Mon. " 31, Looker v. Moberley; Lethbridge v. Noble.
Wed. Nov. 2nd, Noble v. Mackay.
Thurs. " 3rd, Lethbridge v. Davies.

If any captain wishes for a substitute he must obtain one (or more) of the following gentlemen:—T. Yule, J. D. Danby, H. A. Seth, W. M. Humphreys, J. Brooke Smith.

The regular season will be opened on Saturday, November 5th, with a match against the King's Own Regiment.

At a Committee meeting of the Shield Competition Committee held on the 11th inst. it was decided to give medals as before.

### CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

On 11th Oct. at noon the 32nd ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the head office, Queen's Road Central, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and statement of accounts to 30th April last and of declaring dividends. Mr. J. Thurburn presided and there were also present Messrs. A. J. Raymond, A. Haupt, and P. Sachse (directors), W. H. Ray (secretary), Captain Burnie, Messrs. G. de Champeaux, G. Stewart, and G. T. Veitch.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—I regret to say that the Chairman of the Board will not be present, so I am obliged to take his place. The report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for several days, and, as you have doubtless carefully studied them, I will with your permission take them as read. To many of you, who have in former years become accustomed to the almost uninterrupted series of good reports with their liberal dividends and bonuses to shareholders and contributors, and often a substantial addition to reserve, I fear the present statement of accounts must be disappointing. As stated in the report, the unfavourable result is entirely due to the abnormal number of fine steamers in the Eastern trades which have been either totally wrecked or incurred serious casualties, in which the Company has in its usual course of business been more or less heavily interested, and reductions in rates, which we do not inaugurate but which at times we have to follow. The business has been worked during the past year by the same managers and on the identical lines which in the past have produced such good results. Our experience is by no means exceptional, and some of you may have observed an interesting leading article that lately appeared in the *Economist* dealing with the present unsatisfactory position of marine insurance. A moderate increase in rates is undoubtedly needed and must eventually come about, though up to the present combined action has not been found practicable, except in the Australian colonies, where tariffs have been formed and are working satisfactorily. Turning to the report itself, the balance sheet and working account call for no special comment, but with regard to the proposed transfer of \$100,000 from the reserve fund, I may mention that the outstanding claims amount to considerably less than the sum carried forward, but in view of the number of risks unexpired the directors have deemed it prudent to make provision for any further losses which may occur. The present lean year follows twenty good ones and with a return to the normal ratio of losses the directors trust that future years may prove to be as profitable as the past ones. The current year has opened well, and, though it is far too early to speak confidently of its prospects, the directors venture to hope that when they next meet you it will be with a better report than the one which they regret it is their duty to present to you to-day. Our mortgages have been valued as usual by Messrs. Palmer and Turner and the properties continue to furnish ample security for the loans on them. Before formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to reply to any questions that shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions, the report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. STEWART.

On the motion of Mr. DE CHAMPEAUX, seconded by Captain BURNIE, the appointment by the directors of Messrs. Sachse and Haupt to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of Messrs. G. D. Böning and St. C. Michaelsen was confirmed.

Messrs. C. Beermann and Sachse were re-

elected directors, on the motion of Mr. STEWART, seconded by Mr. DE CHAMPEAUX.

On the motion of Captain BURNIE, seconded by Mr. VEITCH, Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

### THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The following is the report for the half-year ended 30th June, last:—

To the shareholders.—Gentlemen, The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending June 30th, 1898.

The gross profits of the bank for the past half-year, including yen 274,689.795 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 4,950,700.668, of which yen 3,516,301.072 have been deducted for current expenses, interest on deposits, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,434,399.596 out of which yen 69,582 have been written off for officers' remuneration.

The directors now propose that yen 300,000 be added to the reserve fund, increasing it to yen 6,960,000; and yen 50,000 be set aside for the contemplated new building. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 450,000 on the old shares, and yen 225,000 on the new shares, making a total of yen 675,000.

The balance, yen 339,817.596, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA, Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th September, 1898

### THE SHANGHAI ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, AND DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at Shanghai on the 30th September at the offices of Messrs. H. Mandl and Co., Kiangse Road. The chair was occupied by Count Butler and there were also present Messrs. Blechynden, Middleton, and Chun Fainting (directors), W. B. O. Middleton, E. W. Clements, J. C. Leonard, Robertson (Nagasaki), G. Pilkington, R. H. Ord, J. West, H. S. George, A. H. Maertens, C. Overbeck, and Macgowan (secretary), representing 2,009 shares.

The Chairman said—With your permission we will take the minutes of the first meeting as having been read, as they have already been circulated and I think we may take the report and accounts as read for they have also been circulated among the shareholders for a considerable time. During the year under review we have had a good many difficulties to contend against which have retarded the completion, and added to the cost, of the dock. The cofferdam gave way on three occasions; the first two breaks were easily repaired, but when, in August, last year, the water was pumped out, it was found that the construction was not strong enough to withstand the pressure of the mud, and almost one-third of the dam burst. This necessitated the construction of an inner dam, of much stronger build, which has been perfectly successful. Last autumn and early in the spring of this year we experienced several unfortunate landlips, which made it necessary to do the greater part of the work twice, and in some instances thrice over. In view of these difficulties we thought it our duty to obtain the best professional advice in addition to what we have engaged and the work has since been carried on in accordance with that advice. Happily, these difficulties have been overcome, and the photographs on the table will show you that the work is now nearing completion, and much further progress has been made since these views were taken. More than nine-tenths of the bottom is filled and concreted; the piling of the sides is nearly finished, the caisson is well in hand, and the pumps and pumping engines are fixed in position. We confidently expect by the end of this year to be able to flood the dock and float the caisson into position. Then the work of removing the cofferdam will begin and be completed in about 6 weeks. The greater part of



our machinery is now erected, and we are already doing a good deal of work in our new shops, especially in the boiler yard and blacksmith's shop. We have had one steamer alongside our wharf for repairs which were satisfactorily effected. We are also building for the Custom House a new Tungsha lightship for launching in a few days. Turning to the statement of accounts it will be observed that the net earnings for the year are smaller than those shown in last year's accounts. This is partly due to the fact that a great deal of the work done for the Dock at our Yang-tse-poo works has been charged at cost price, besides which our foreign staff has necessarily been larger than would be required for present operations, but is none too large in view of the fact that we are expecting in the very near future to be engaged on ship work. For this it has been necessary to engage foreign heads of departments. The drawing office staff has been constantly employed as enquiries must be answered, and we have not the advantage that older offices enjoy of a large stock of drawings to make use of. Against the expiry of the lease of our present Yantsepoo premises, your Directors are making arrangements to lease more convenient premises nearer the English Settlement, on very reasonable terms. If any shareholders would like to ask any questions I shall be happy to answer them and if they are of a technical nature Mr. Blechynden who is present will do so.

No questions being put,

The Chairman moved that the report and accounts as printed and circulated be adopted.

Mr. O. Meuser seconded and the resolution was carried.

Mr. C. Overbeck proposed and Mr. A. H. Maertens seconded the re-election of Mr. O. Middleton as director. Carried.

Messrs. Wilmer Harris and R. Eastlack were re-elected auditors of the company on the motion of Mr. E. W. Clements seconded by Mr. Pilkington.

The business of the ordinary meeting terminated and the shareholders resolved themselves into an extraordinary general meeting to discuss the following resolution: "That the balance of the ordinary shares at present unallotted shall be forthwith issued numbered from 6,201 to 7,500 inclusive and that such shares (being the second issue of shares) shall be entitled to a Preferential Dividend at the rate of seven per centum per annum on the amount thereof payable out of the profits of each year. Whenever the profits of the Company in respect of any one year shall be more than sufficient to pay the preference dividend aforesaid and also a dividend for such year at the rate of seven per centum per annum on the first issue of the ordinary shares, the holders of the second issue of ordinary shares shall be entitled to participate in the surplus (of the amount appropriated for dividend) *pari passu* with the holders of the first issue of ordinary shares."

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, before proposing the special resolution which we have met to consider, I have one or two brief remarks to make. It has for some time been no secret that we required further funds. The land-slips that occurred while building the dock, which I have already referred to at the ordinary meeting, have naturally swallowed up a good deal of money, but your directors have purposely delayed coming to the public till the accidents just mentioned had been fully repaired, and they had thorough confidence in the stability of the work. The dock being now so near completion we no longer hesitate to come before you with a scheme for raising the funds necessary to finish the undertaking and we trust we shall receive the hearty support of the shareholders. Various plans for raising the money have been considered, and your Directors finally decided that it would be to the best interests of the shareholders and the Company to issue the balance of the ordinary shares under the conditions mentioned in the resolution. Regarding the preferential dividend, the Board desires to impress upon the shareholders (and the investing public) that they will consider it their duty to declare the dividend, should the profits be sufficient, before putting anything to reserve or writing anything off property account. I may point out that the profits for the last two years, though we have

been working under great disadvantages in our confined quarters at Yangtsepoo, have been sufficient to pay such a dividend, so that the 7 per cent, though not guaranteed, may be looked upon as a certainty. It is proposed to call up the amount of the shares as follows:—Tls. 25 on application, Tls. 25 on allotment, Tls. 25 on 6th January and Tls. 25 on 6th February. The shares will rank for dividend as from 1st November on the whole one hundred teals, although not half of that amount will then have been actually paid up. The lists will close on the 1st of November. Before proposing the resolution I shall be happy to answer any questions on the subject which shareholders may wish to ask. I may further add that we originally—if we had thought we would have had any such accidents—could easily have insured all the capital in the beginning but we naturally thought it to the greater advantage of the shareholders to issue only what appeared necessary at that time. It would have been easy to have the whole of the capital because it was oversubscribed and now, of course, in the present state of the money market and the shares of the company being at a discount, which I hope will not be for long, we came to the conclusion that this was the best way—to issue shares—and I hope all the shareholders who are present and all the others who are not present will support us because to tell the plain truth we must have the money. It is not much and if anybody who understands such matters will go down to the dock and look at the work, if he is a professional man he will say it did not cost more than it ought to have cost for the work that has been done.

Mr. D. F. Robertson (Nagasaki) Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—As a shareholder from a distance I wish publicly to express to you the opinion of one who is not an expert but who has visited the works the other day and I would wish the shareholders to thank you gentlemen for the way you have carried on the undertaking in the face of the most obstinate difficulties. There is no question in my opinion about its ultimate success. What you have said will be found to come out exactly as you have stated and I am certain if the shareholders understood the situation, your preference shares would be more than applied for and even if not I am sure if you go to the debenture market there is no doubt your success will be assured. I thank you for keeping us out of the pawnbroker's hand and for giving us the privilege of taking the issue up as preference shares. (Hear, hear).

The Chairman—I thank you very much for the kind words you have said. Everyone has done his best for the interests of the shareholders. I now propose the special resolution.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Chun Fai-tung and carried unanimously.

The Chairman—An extraordinary meeting to confirm this resolution will be held on Tuesday October 18th, at four o'clock p.m. in this room. I thank you very much for having attended these meetings and I declare the meeting closed.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION.

The first ordinary, or statutory, meeting of this corporation was held on Sep. 5th at Cannon Street Hotel, London. Mr. W. Keswick presided.

The Chairman stated that the meeting was held in compliance with the Companies Act, which required that shareholders should be called together within four months of the registration of the company. This corporation was registered on May 24. The shares were fully applied for, and had been allotted and issued. The corporation was now, therefore, legally constituted, and, he might say, possessed a body of shareholders of the highest character and influence. The sphere of its operations was a vast one, and gave promise of great possibilities. Events in China, as they all knew, had broken down the wall of exclusiveness, and that ancient Empire was now a field in which there should be found abundant opportunities for the favourable employment of money for the construction of railways, the development of its vast mineral resources, and the introduction generally of Western appliances of machinery and steam power. They had secured the refusal of the concession of the Shanghai, Soochow, Chin-

kiang, and Nanking Railway, which would run through one of the richest and most densely populated districts in China, and they had engaged two English engineers, one of whom was sent from home, to make the detailed surveys of the road, and this work they had all but completed. The second engineer was Mr. Morrison, who originally went out to China in connection with the Woosung Railway, and whose local knowledge had been of special value in connection with the locating and surveying of the line. This corporation had for its representatives in China the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. With the concession there would be rights of extension within the province and for the branch lines that might become necessary. A matter of supreme importance to which he might allude was that the sphere of their interest in the regions of the Yangtze in regard to railway concessions had been lately defined in a clear and satisfactory manner, and they might consequently look with confidence for sound and legitimate expansion of great works in that populous valley. Through the good offices of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to whom the corporation was much indebted, a working arrangement had been come to with a group of leading German banks and others, forming what was known as the German Syndicate, and who, with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, had been already engaged in large financial operations for the Chinese Government. This arrangement was one of mutual advantage, and they looked forward to the happiest results to be obtained from it. This corporation, then, had an outlook which could not but be regarded most favourably by the shareholders, and the Board considered there was business before them which, though it would take time to mature, was calculated to prove satisfactory. The intention was to proceed carefully and prudently, for the Board were aware there would be many wild schemes, uncertain, and perhaps valueless, concessions, and a fruitful crop of disasters and disappointments before the rush for Chinese enterprises ceased, and the fact was recognised that in China, as elsewhere, only what was sound, well controlled, and economically managed would prove profitable to shareholders and capitalists. In conclusion, he said he thought they had reason to congratulate themselves that they had before them the prospect of good business in connection with the development of the resources of China.

No resolution was submitted to the meeting other than a vote of thanks to the chairman.

#### RAUB.

##### ROUGH CLEAN UP.

The Singapore Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Ltd., Singapore, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 3rd October, 1898:—

"Rough cleaning up of Battery yielded 2,650 oz. Amalgam, estimated quantity of stone crushed being 1,100 tons. Four weeks' crushing."

Adopting an approximate average of 37 per cent gold in the amalgam this would represent about 980 ounces for the month's work. Say just under 18 dwt. to the ton (over 17½ dwt.) This would be pretty near, though not quite up to, the average for the last crush. In sterling the amount would represent about £3,822 for four weeks; say, £7,644 for the usual two monthly crush. At 1s. 11d. per dollar this would be almost \$80,000 for the two months of September and October, the annual out-turn on the above gold approximate estimate being, therefore, \$480,000. Taking the average from the actual beginning of the year into account, it would however, be more than that.—*Singapore Free Press.*

A complete plant for making \$5 notes of the Penang Branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has been found at Penang. The plant included dies, paints, brushes, and tools. The blocks were made of brass, and were fixed on wood. The cutting of the dies is said to be finely done. The signatures were forged with pens. The plant was found at a blacksmith's shop. The Chinaman who tried to pass the notes has been arrested.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

## THE VICTORIA JUBILEE ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Ormsby's letter in your last issue on the subject of the Victoria Jubilee Road will be read with some surprise by those of your readers who take an interest in the scheme for a road round the island.

Mr. Ormsby claims to be intimately acquainted with the matter in all its bearings, but as he was not in the colony at the time of the discussion on the subject he is naturally unaware of the interest which the public took in it at the time and of the searching criticism to which all projects for celebrating Her Majesty's Jubilee were subjected.

The resolution of the Jubilee Committee of the 26th April was arrived at after mature consideration, and after a free expression of public opinion had been invited. There seems no reason why that resolution should be termed unfortunate. It may not meet entirely with Mr. Ormsby's approval, but whether it is unfortunate or not is a matter of opinion. Mr. Ormsby's predecessor, Mr. Cooper, did not deem it unfortunate, or he would have entered his opinion in opposition to it at the time, being quite free to do so had he been so disposed. I had an interview with him on the subject and found him in no way unfavourably disposed to it.

It will be quite within the recollection of the older residents in the colony that the idea of a sea-level road round the south side of the island is by no means a new one. An earnest attempt for the same object was made on the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign and commanded a large amount of public support, but the time was apparently not then ripe and the project was postponed.

When the auspicious event of Her Majesty's 60th Jubilee gave it again a chance of being reopened, the scheme met with hearty and spontaneous support, and 192 names were affixed to the requisition for the road in a very short space of time. This number could have been easily increased if time had permitted, and a large number of Chinese names could have been added had occasion required it.

The scheme was put forward in competition with many others and received cordial and general support, resulting in the resolution of the 26th April. It was understood at the time that the completion of the scheme in its entirety would be a matter requiring some time. It was also known that the amount of money in hand would be insufficient to pay for the completed road, but the deficiency was promised at the time by the then Governor Sir William Robinson. The crux of the whole thing lies in the idea of making a sea-level road available for all in the most convenient locality. It is apparent that an improvement at Shauiwan, however desirable in itself, is of little advantage to the teeming population of the western part of the city, who would have to spend a considerable sum of money to get there at all, and it is only fair to remember that the large subscriptions received from the Chinese were for the road from Kennedytown to Aberdeen. The hospital scheme did not recommend itself to them.

The Road as originally proposed gives to the Chinese, huddled together as they are now, a cheap and easy means of fresh air and exercise. Any one who has seen the Bubbling Well Road at Shanghai, or the Chinese driving about at Penang and Singapore, must admit that when the opportunity of locomotion is afforded them they freely avail of it. If people have to ascend to the level of Pokfulam, about five hundred feet, the number who will use the road in hot weather will be reduced to a minimum. Whoever saw any one use the present road in summer except a stray European who is devoted to hard exercise?

Any amelioration of the gradient would exercise but little attraction on a hot night, whereas a level road along the Sulphur Channel would be largely patronised, as during the S.W. monsoon a breeze is constantly drawing through there.

Is it not too late in the day to tamper with a duly considered and approved project? As

for the objection on military grounds, which we now hear of for the first time, had it been worth serious consideration we would have had it raised by the military authorities during the discussion at the Jubilee. If the money in hand now is insufficient to complete the work, let it at least be expended in accordance with the agreement arrived at. Any deviation from that course gives a loophole for alterations and delays at once vexatious and unnecessary. It would be a departure from a given pledge which might hereafter be used as a dangerous precedent.—I remain, Dear Sir, Your obedient servant,

G. STEWART.

Hongkong, 12th October, 1898.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I have read Mr. Ormsby's letter of the 11th instant on the subject of the road round the island with interest. The object of his letter appears to be to suggest that in view of altered circumstances a meeting of the subscribers to the fund should be convened. In this I fully concur, seeing that the Jubilee Committee have never called a meeting of such subscribers. The Jubilee Committee were appointed by the Governor, not by the subscribers, and for some reason best known to themselves they did not see fit to convene a public meeting at which the various projects could be discussed. The resolution referred to by Mr. Ormsby was also the resolution of the Jubilee Committee and not a resolution passed by subscribers.

I addressed a letter to Mr. Chater as the Chairman of the Jubilee Committee on the 16th June, 1897, in which I asked the Committee to once more consider the utility of that portion of the proposed road to run round Mount Davis and whether it was desirable to commence the road from such a distant point as Kennedytown and carry it round Mount Davis rather than to improve the present Pokfulam Road by easing its gradients. I also begged that Mr. Chater and the Committee would take steps to ascertain whether the wishes of the subscribers to the Jubilee Fund were really in favour of carrying the proposed road round Mount Davis irrespective of cost and reminded him that the Jubilee Committee, who were nominated by the Governor, had not discussed the question of a road round the island with the public at a public meeting and suggested that it behoved the Committee to be quite certain they represented the wishes of the public, or at any rate the majority of the subscribers to the Jubilee Fund, before causing a large sum of money to be spent on a road round Mount Davis when the same object, viz., improved road accommodation, could be more cheaply and expeditiously obtained by adhering to the present road as far as Aberdeen with improved gradients.

My letter, which appeared in the local papers of the 16th and 17th June, 1897, was not, so far as I can remember, in any way acknowledged by Mr. Chater.

Now if from lack of funds it is unlikely that the Government (to quote from the resolution of the 26th April, 1897) "can commence forthwith and carry on the remaining portion of the road until completed" surely it more than ever behoves the Jubilee Committee to call a meeting of the subscribers and ascertain their wishes under the altered circumstances.

The Hongkong Telegraph, in their leading article on the subject which appeared in the issue of the 12th instant, stated that "Mr. Ormsby's appeal to the public seemed to them very decidedly out of order and, considering that there was a Jubilee Committee and Sub-Committee in existence, an impertinence."

With that statement I do not think many persons will agree.

What I now suggest is practically a repetition of what I suggested before, viz., that the Committee should set to work and ascertain what are really the present wishes of the majority of subscribers, having regard to altered circumstances, and that the committee should ascertain such wishes by calling a meeting of the subscribers and, if it is found that a majority are in favour of altering the resolution of 26th April, 1897, that it should be altered in accordance with the wishes of the meeting. Any dissident subscriber should, however, if he so wished, be able to obtain his money back.

Turning to Mr. Stewart's letter, I venture to predict that the result of the construction of a road from Kennedytown round Mount Davis will not encourage locomotion amongst the Chinese. Shanghai and Hongkong are very different places and the class of Chinese who drive along the Bubbling Well Road in Shanghai and those who inhabit the Western portion of Victoria differ very considerably the one from the other.

Mr. Stewart asks, "Is it not too late in the day to tamper with a duly considered and approved object?" I say no, not too late in the day for the subscribers to be given an opportunity of considering the question under an altered state of circumstances to those supposed to exist when they were asked to subscribe their money, with the possible result of preventing the commencement of a road leading, at any rate for several years to come, from the extreme western part of the island to nowhere in particular.

As would-be subscribers were never called together and consulted by the Committee, who were appointed by the Governor, the only alternative left to any who did not approve of the resolution *in toto* was to decline to subscribe at all.

I venture to suggest, however, that others besides myself preferred to subscribe, hoping that mature consideration would cause a reconsideration of the matter and that part of the resolution would not be blindly followed if circumstances intervened to prevent the whole of the resolution being carried out within a reasonable period.

It would be interesting to learn whether the resolution of the 26th April, 1897, appeared upon the subscription lists circulated for signature. For the purposes of this letter I am assuming that it did, and, further, that such resolution was present to the mind of each subscriber when he signed, but I should like the Jubilee Committee to enlighten the public upon the point.

With apologies for trespassing at so great length on your valuable space.—I am, sir, yours faithfully.

GODFREY C. C. MASTER.

Hongkong, 13th October, 1898.

## HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—The second leading article in your issue of Saturday, the 8th instant, requires an answer from me. I therefore beg you to be good enough to insert this letter in your next edition.

You say that I was wrong in the statements I made at the recent extraordinary meeting of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited. Will you permit me to explain that I was not wrong, and that I never stated, in the way you mention, that the shareholders in a limited company are not legally shareholders unless they sign the articles of association?

The statements I made at the meeting were based solely on the articles of association of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, which contain a special clause providing for two classes of shareholders, namely (1) those who are registered only and can as such transmit a title to the shares they hold to others, and nothing further; and (2) those who can exercise the rights and privileges of shareholders, expressly limited to those only who have actually signed the articles of association. (See clause 28.)

This clause is not common to articles of association in Hongkong, and the reason for its insertion was, no doubt, because the articles provided for an increase of capital and it was thought desirable to exclude those shareholders from voting who took no permanent interest in the Company.

This article has never been amended or modified since the first formation of the Company but remains one of the regulations of the Company to this day, and must therefore be taken into consideration in ascertaining whether a special resolution of the Company has been duly passed or not.

Another point was that the articles of association of the Company requires 3/4ths of the nominal capital to be represented by at least 3/5ths of the shareholders present at an extraordinary meeting to carry a special resolution. This article also has never been modified or



amended since the formation of the Company. (See article 57.)

The Companies' Ordinance of 1865 requires, in its provision for the protection of shareholders, that the majority to pass a special resolution shall represent at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the shareholders present, and I therefore stated that I thought the  $\frac{3}{5}$ ths mentioned in the articles of association of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, was a misprint for  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths, as the law of  $\frac{3}{5}$ ths majority cannot be diminished to  $\frac{3}{5}$ ths by any articles of association.

A third point was that inasmuch as the articles of association provided a scale for the remuneration of the directors, say \$3,000 per annum with an additional remuneration of \$1,000 for every 2 per cent dividend declared over and above 15 per cent per annum (see paragraph 88), a resolution voting money to them contrary to these articles cannot have any legal effect until the articles of association themselves have been amended by special resolution giving power to the Company to do so.

I still maintain that neither at the first extraordinary meeting of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, when the resolution voting \$6,000 of the Company's money to the directors was declared carried by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, nor at the confirmatory meeting on Thursday, the 6th instant, were there any shareholders present qualified to vote according to the articles of association (except myself at the confirmatory meeting).

Even if all the persons present at both meetings had been legally qualified to vote they did not represent  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the nominal capital of the Company as required by the articles of association; and yet the chairman of the Board of Directors, being a recipient of the money supposed to be voted, declared the special resolution carried in the face of the articles of association of the Company.

I never understood before that the directors of a company could act contrary to their articles of association, nor that a company could carry on its business under the articles of association of another company. Under what companies' articles of association the directors acted at the recent meetings I do not know, but the special resolution in question was certainly never carried under the articles of association of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited.—I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant.

JAMES H. COX,  
Shareholder in the Hongkong  
Hotel Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 13th October, 1898.

#### FOREIGNERS MOBBED IN PEKING.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on the 4th October, says:—

A cricket team accompanied by a few friends left Peking on a visit to our Port. As the cavalcade passed through the capital its numbers and destination provoked the greatest curiosity; and with an astounding combination of ignorance and credulity it was put down to an exodus of the foreigners "because Peking was getting too hot for them." Even our Tientsin native neighbours rose to this climax of folly. The blackguards and canaille, who are rampant in every great city in East or West, gathered courage at the departure of the men, and on Friday last attacked Mr. Lowry, acting Secretary of the U.S. Legation and (*on dit*) broke one of his ribs by heaving brickbats at him. Worse, Mr. Mortimore of the British Legation was escorting a lady when both were going into the city from the station, when both were savagely set upon and maltreated by the mob, the gentleman on foot, the lady in a cart. They were only saved by their own discretion, and by the plucky adherence of their servants, who invoked the assistance of some friendly carters; the latter got the cart off the raised causeway and out of the "block" on a bridge, thus enabling these men to drive furiously along on the grass(!). Mr. Mortimore and the lady went straight to Sir Claude and gave His Excellency ocular demonstration of their ill-treatment.

Prompt measures were at once taken to secure no repetition of this disgrace, all the Legations taking up the matter at once. The meeting at the Spanish Legation was instantly known all round native Peking, was dissociated from its real cause, and made the focus of mavericks too absurd for recapitulation. They of course put

it down to every motive but the real one. The Russian, German, and British ministers at once telegraphed for the guards which the precarious nature of the general situation had inspired them to ask for from the naval and military authorities in northern waters. Fifty British marines with a Maxim and two officers arrived to-day. Twenty-five of these are to go up to the Legation. Thirty Cossacks with their horses are due at Taku to-morrow, and a goodly squad of stout Germans from Kiaochow on Wednesday. It is believed their co-arrival has been purposely effected, and the real nature of their present duty explained to the Chinese. There was a precedent for this during the war.

Peking has, however, taken the alarm, and the next day or two may see serious complications. It is believed on good authority that orders have been sent down to the railway authorities not to allow these guards to entrain, and it is current in well-informed circles to-night that Yuan, the Acting Viceroy, has published proclamations to this effect, and actually posted them up in the railway station. Personally I hesitate to believe that Yuan is such a marplot. He is a very able, clear-headed man (was in Seoul before the war) and knows quite well that such a procedure is certain to embroil both him and his country with the foreign powers. Moreover Yuan is strong enough to refuse to carry out the follies of ignorant Peking; if, however, he acquiesces in them, there will certainly be trouble, for he has both the means and the courage to act up to his intentions. His troops at Hsiao-shan (thirty miles from here) are the best drilled, most honestly paid, fed, and clad braves that China has seen for many a year, and his straightforward conduct to the men has possibly secured their attachment.

The lady who was mobbed in Peking is back in Tientsin and leaves for the South to-morrow. It is advisable to withhold her name lest her family suffer needless alarm from reports which are sure to be grossly exaggerated. She behaved with admirable presence of mind and courage, insisting on Mr. Mortimore taking refuge in her cart *pro tem*. There is a report here that another foreign lady was assaulted in a different part of the city, on the same day.

#### THE COUP D'ETAT AT PEKING.

It has been well known for some months that Kang Yu-wei had the ear of the Emperor at all times and that scarcely a day passed without an interview. Often Kang was accompanied by one of his friends, but next to himself the most frequent visitor to the Palace was Tan Tsz-tung, the brilliant son of the Governor of Hupeh. These two men Kang and Tan were allowed great freedom in their audiences and were treated as familiar friends by the Emperor. Being men of inferior rank this special distinction caused them to be the subjects of much jealousy on the part of influential clansmen and of the high Ministers of State. Their movements were also closely watched by the Empress-Dowager, who was anxious to score points against the Emperor. The struggle for power between the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor has been going on ever since his accession to the throne after his marriage. It had been gradually reaching an acute stage during the last few months, because the Emperor through his many familiar interviews with the members of the Reform Party has had opportunity to learn the feeling of his subjects toward the Empress-Dowager. Never popular, she has always been feared for her astuteness and fearlessness. Her doings have been the constant subject of conversation among well-informed Chinese for years, and it is not to be denied that she has made herself to be thoroughly hated. She has encouraged bribery and corruption for her own emolument and has shown no interest in the general welfare of the people. The Emperor knowing her sullied reputation has been placed in a most difficult position. On the one hand he owes her the greatest debt for having made him Emperor, and for having acted as Regent during his long minority. He was not the nearest heir to the Throne, and yet the prompt vigorous action of the Empress-Dowager succeeded in placing him above all rivals. The very fact that he displaced other candidates made natural enemies of all their patrons, so that in the Imperial clan it is safe to say that

Kuang Hsu has never been liked. Not for his own sake, but because he, a usurper, was placed upon the Throne by the Dowager who was herself a usurper, the Emperor has always had a strong clan opposition to him. During the years of the Regency the Empress-Dowager opposed this party with all her might and did her utmost to minimise their influence. This fact placed the Emperor under the deepest obligation to the Empress-Dowager and made him loth to do anything which would appear ungrateful on his part. On the other hand he knew her great unpopularity and that she was blamed for the settlement of the Japanese war as well as for the general state of official corruption. It seems that he attempted a compromise by giving her the highest public honour and allowing her often to name men for leading positions, while at the same time he secretly exerted himself to gain possession of real power by which he could reform and redeem his country.

This compromise has been in execution for several years and like all similar attempts has been the cause of endless bickerings and quarrels in the Imperial household. The latest form of the quarrel is responsible for the present situation. The Empress-Dowager, seeing that the Emperor was determined to institute reform measures and that he was bold enough to dismiss the old Minister Weng Tung-ho, feared that he might take some rash measure which would involve the safety of the capital, and hence she resolved to have her own trusted henchman Yung Lu made Viceroy of Chihli and Generalissimo of the Peiyang troops. This gave her substantial support at any time when she might need it, for it would allow troops to be moved into Peking at any moment and would make her ruler of the situation. This appointment was strongly opposed by the Emperor, but he finally acquiesced in it. To offset its influence, however, he succeeded in appointing Yuan Shih-kai, the ex-"Resident" at Seoul, who is a favourite of the Emperor and a member of the Reform party, as Assistant High Commissioner of the Peiyang forces. This gave Yuan Shih-kai more real power over the Chihli forces than Yung Lu had, for Yuan was to live with the troops while Yung was shut up in the Yamen at Tientsin. The Reform party represented by Kang and Tan were forced by the threatening attitude of the Empress and of Yung Lu to recommend vigorous action, and they proved themselves equal to the occasion. They urged the Emperor to do three things which would give him absolute control of the Empire. The first step was the beheading of Yung Lu, the second was the occupation of Peking and the Palaces by the troops of Yuan Shih-kai, and the third was the removal of the Empress-Dowager to a place of confinement where she could not interfere with the affairs of state.

The first act was attempted, and here the fatal mistake was made. The Emperor issued an edict instructing Yuan Shih-kai to proceed at once to Tientsin with his troops and to behead Yung Lu. This edict was written in the presence of Kang and Tan, and was delivered by the Emperor to Tan to carry to Yuan Shih-kai. He did his task faithfully and delivered the message to Yuan, who during the night of Monday, the 18th of September, moved five thousand troops to Tientsin, but instead of taking Yung Lu immediately into arrest and carrying out his orders to execute him, he showed the orders to Yung Lu and weakly apologised for the disagreeableness of his task. This gave Yung Lu time to telegraph an urgent dispatch to the Empress-Dowager, who immediately issued an edict for the arrest of Kang and Tan and their associates, and another edict ordering Yung Lu to proceed immediately to Peking. Thus the indecision of one man, Yuan Shih-kai, frustrated the coup planned by the Emperor and enabled the Empress-Dowager to bring her sagacity into play for her own protection. As soon as Yung Lu reached Peking and assumed his new office as a member of the Grand Council, he revenged himself on the men who had planned his death by having Tan and his associates summarily decapitated.

Thus the present situation may be regarded as the outcome of a family quarrel and not as a protest against the reform measures instituted by the Emperor. It was not opposition to



these measures which caused the Empress-Dowager to be opposed to the Emperor; but it was the possession of power which excited her envy and hatred. It is really too bad that the quarrel should have been brought to an issue over these questions of reform which involve the integrity and prosperity of the Empire. The Empress has never really shown herself opposed to such measures during her regency, but has always seemed to be rather indifferent to them and waiting only for a general demand on the part of the people. Had she been won over to the cause of reform by some skilful persuader, a different story might have been written. The Emperor seems not to have desired to pursue a conciliatory course but to compel submission. Neither he nor the Reform Party seemed to have rightly measured the forces which were opposed to them, nor the power necessary for them to attain before they could attempt such a bold move as the setting aside of the Empress-Dowager. Her henchmen are everywhere entrenched both in Metropolitan and Provincial offices. All of the Viceroy and Governors, all the Provincial Treasurers, and high officers, as well as all the high military officers are appointees of the Empress-Dowager and are therefore her supporters. Kang and his party were despised by these high officials as upstarts and triflers. They were considered to be mere adventurers playing upon the caprices of the young Emperor. It cannot be doubted that their plan was too precipitate and dangerous, needing at every step the courage of a strong man. When this was most needed for the execution of the first step of their contemplated coup the reliable man was not found, and the hesitating Yuan overwhelmed them in defeat and death.—N. C. Daily News.

### THE WHOLESALE REPEAL OF REFORMS.

#### IMPERIAL DECREE.

Peking, 26th September.

The reforms that we ordained recently were for the sake of giving more chances to the masses to better their condition and because it was our desire to make our empire strong and wealthy. We never commanded these reforms for the mere pleasure of changing things or for the wish of casting away old customs that had been handed down to us. We feel sure that the great body of our officials and the people will recognise by our efforts that these reforms had been inaugurated through the pressure of dangers hovering over this empire.

Of late, however, we find that our subjects have been put into a ferment of fear and uncertainty, which we believe has been due to the incapability of those in office to carry out our commands, as we should have desired. For this reason ignorant people have thought that they could do every improper thing and in their ignorance have attempted to put wrong constructions on our movements. To take the case of our recent abolition of yamens and officials. Our real desire was to make away with superfluous posts for the sake of economy; whereas, on the contrary, we find rumours flying abroad that we intended to change wholesale the customs of our empire, and, in consequence, innumerable impossible suggestions of reform have been presented to us. If we allowed this to go on, none of us would know to what pass matters will come. Hence, unless we hasten to put our present wishes clearly before all we greatly fear the yamen petty officials and underlings will put their own construction on what commands have gone before and create a ferment in the midst of the usual calm of the people. This will indeed be contrary to our desire and put our reforms for strengthening and enriching our empire to naught.

We therefore hereby command that the Supervisorate of Instruction and other five minor Courts and Boards which were recently abolished by us and their duties amalgamated with other Boards for the sake of economy, etc., be forthwith restored to their original state and duties, because we have learned that the process of amalgamation contains many difficulties and will require too much labour. We think, therefore, it is best that these offices be not abolished at all, there being no actual necessity for doing this. As for the provincial bureaux and official posts ordered to be abolished the work in

this connection may go on as usual, and the Viceroys and Governors are exhorted to work earnestly and diligently in the above duty. Again, as to the edict ordering the establishment of an official newspaper, the *Chinese Progress*, and the privilege granted to all scholars and commoners to memorialise us on reforms, etc., this was issued in order that a way might be opened by which we could come into touch with our subjects, high and low. But as we have also given extra liberty to our Censors and high officers to report to us on all matters pertaining to the people and their government, any reforms necessary, suggested by these officers, will be attended to at once by us. Hence we consider that our former edict allowing all persons to report to us is for obvious reasons superfluous, with the present legitimate machinery at hand. And we now command that the privilege be withdrawn and only the proper officers be permitted to report to us as to what is going on in our Empire. As for the magazine *Chinese Progress*, it is really of no use to the government, whilst, on the other hand, it will excite the masses to evil; hence we command the said paper to be suppressed (abolished).

With regard to the proposed Peking University and the middle schools in the provincial capitals they may go on as usual, as they are a nursery for the perfection of true ability and talents. But with reference to the lower schools in the sub-prefectures and districts there need be no compulsion, full liberty being given to the people thereof to do what they please in this connection. As for the unofficial Buddhist, Taoist, and memorial temples which were ordered to be turned into district schools, etc., so long as these institutions have not broken the laws by any improper conduct of their inmates, or the deities worshipped in them are not of the seditious kind, they are hereby excused from the edict above noted. Beyond the measures above named, such as those for encouraging commerce, agriculture, science, and military matters, as they are really for the good of the people and the country, the proposals for putting them into effect shall go on but whatever reforms, previously commanded may conflict with the interests of the government and established custom are all to be repealed and we hereby command the Ministers of the Six Boards and the Tsungli Yamen to carefully deliberate over all the above named measures of reform and report the result to us. At the present moment when the country is undergoing a crisis of danger and difficulty we must be careful of what may be done or what may not, and select only such measures as may be really of benefit to the Empire. We trust that all our officers, high and low, may recognise our efforts in this direction and aid us in so doing.

(2) Hsu Yung-yi, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, is appointed a member of the Tsungli Yamen.

(3) Ch'eng Chang is appointed Vice-Director of the Court of Ceremonial Sacrifices.

[Note.—This was one of the six Courts or minor Boards abolished a short month ago.—Translator.]

(4) We have received the memorial of the Board of Punishments in connection with the trial of the proscribed officials Hsu Chih-ching, Yang Sheng-hsiu, Yang Jui, Lin Hsio, Tan Sze-tung, and Liu Kuang-ti, together with Kang Kuang-jen, the younger brother of Kang Yu-wei, to the effect that, owing to the seriousness and gravity of the case in question, we should further appoint high Ministers to assist in the said trial, etc. We hereby command the members of the Grand Council and the Court of Censors to make a joint tribunal with the said Board for the trial of the said malefactors. With reference to Chang Yin-huan (Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue) although he has been repeatedly denounced to us and has a very evil reputation, yet it appears to us that he is not one of Kang Yu-wei's faction; hence, we command that he be temporarily confined in the Board of Punishment to await a further decree from us. The case of Kang Yu-wei, who had in Peking a faction composed of such men as Hsu Chih-ching, etc., is one of great gravity and we fear that he must have a large faction outside of the Capital also, consisting of officials, gentry, and commoners misled by the speciousness of the man. We, however, desire to show mercy to such and therefore shall not go deeply

into an investigation of those who belong to Kang's faction, giving such time to repent of their errors.

[It is understood by this that Chang Yin-huan has bought himself off.—Ed.]—N. C. Daily News.

### IMPERIAL DECREES.

Peking, 29th September.

#### JUNG LU'S NEW APPOINTMENT.

The Grand Secretary Jung Lu is appointed Comptroller-General of the affairs of the Board of War, and the Board of Rites is hereby commanded to make a golden seal for the said Jung Lu in his new capacity of Commander-in-Chief of the military and naval forces of Chihli province and the Peiyang Administration.

#### THE IMPERIAL TOUR ABANDONED.

Owing to the gradual approach of the cold weather we have come to the determination that the contemplated Imperial trip with the Empress Dowager to inspect first the Peking Field Force at the Southern Hunting Parks, on the 19th October next, and eventually to Tientsin to review the military forces of the Peiyang will be detrimental to Her Majesty's health in her old age and we therefore hereby command all preparations now going on to be forthwith cancelled. We could not, however, wish to disappoint our troops in the matter and therefore hereby command that the sum of Tls. 6,000 be sent as rewards to the troops under Nieh Sze-cheng, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Chihli; Tls. 4,000 to the troops under Yuan Shih-ka'i, and Tls. 3,000 to the troops under General Tung Fu-hsiang.

#### ALLEGED REASON FOR THE COUP D'ETAT.

All of our subjects, officials and Ministers must acknowledge that we have tried in every way to advance our Empire and make her strong and wealthy by the inauguration of reforms. We never, however, expected to find the 3rd class Board Secretary, Kang Yu-wei, take advantage of these steps to consummate his evil and treacherous plans of subverting this dynasty and that he dared, the other day, in prosecution of his nefarious designs to conspire to surround Eho Park, capture and exile the persons of the Empress Dowager and ourself. Fortunately the conspiracy was found out in time by us and at once set at naught. We hear also that the conspirators established the Patriotic Association—*Pao-Kuo-hui*—for their purpose, one of their principal tenets being that "in defending the Empire they were defending the country of China and not the Manchu dynasty!" All know that we try to rule this Empire by our filial piety towards the Empress-Dowager; but Kang Yu-wei's doctrines have always been opposed to the ancient Confucian tenets. Owing, however, to the ability shown by the said Kang Yu-wei in modern and practical matters we sought to take advantage of it by appointing him a Secretary of the Tsungli Yamen, and subsequently ordered him to Shanghai to direct the management of the official newspaper there. Instead of this, however, he dared still to remain in Peking pursuing his nefarious designs against the dynasty, and had it not been for the protection given by the spirits of our ancestors he certainly would have succeeded. Kang Yu-wei is therefore the arch conspirator and his chief assistant is the M.A. Liang Ch'it-sao, and they are both to be immediately arrested and punished for the crime of rebellion. The other principal conspirators, namely, the Censor Yang Shenhsin, the brother of Kang Yu-wei, Kang Kuang-jen—and the four Tsungli Yamen secretaries Tan Sze-tung, Lin Hsio, Yang Jui, and Liu Kuang-ti, we immediately ordered to be arrested and imprisoned by the Board of Punishments; but fearing that if any delay ensued in sentencing them they would endeavour to entangle a number of others, we accordingly commanded yesterday (28th September) their immediate execution so as to close the matter entirely and prevent further troubles.

[Note.—The first of the above-named Tsungli Yamen Secretaries was the eldest son of H.E. Tan Chi-hsun, Governor of Hupeh, an exceedingly bright and talented young official.]

Peking, 30th September.

#### AN IMPERIAL CLANSMAN RE-INSTATED.

Huai T'a-pu (formerly cashiered President of the Board of Rites—Translator) is hereby re-



instated as President of the Court of Censors and is also appointed President of the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department.

#### SENTENCES ON THE OTHER UNFORTUNATES.

Chang Yin-huan, the cashiered Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, has been proved to be a cunning, low-principled man, fond of currying favour with men in high places and therefore unfit for his high post. He must be kept under strict surveillance and we therefore banish him to Chinese Turkistan to expiate his sins. The cashiered Hanlin Recorder, Hsu Chih-ching, is ordered to be imprisoned for life in the Board of Punishments, while the Hanlin Compiler and ex-Literary Chancellor of Hunan, Hsu Jen-chih, is hereby cashiered and dismissed from the public service for ever.

[Note:—It is most significant that Hsu Chih-ching's title of Junior Vice President of the Board of Rites, which was given him by the Emperor just before his Majesty was murdered or deposed, has not been recognised in the Empress-Dowager's decree above translated.]

1st October.

#### A NEW COMPTROLLER-GENERAL.

Chao Shu-jao, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, is appointed Comptroller-General, with Wang Wenshao, of the Board of Railways and Mines, vice Chang Yin-huan banished.

#### UNDER THE BAN.

All books and literary essays written and published by the arch conspirator Kang Yu-wei are hereby ordered to be destroyed, and all local officials are commanded to search for them, owing to their being pernicious and contrary to the tenets of our sacred religion (Confucianism).—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### THE TRIAL OF THE REFORMERS AT PEKING.

The *Sinwên-pao* publishes the following trustworthy account of the arrest, trial and execution of the six martyrs to the cause of reform, and incidents relating to what took place during the first few days of the *Coup d'Etat* at Peking:—

At the trial yesterday before the joint tribunal, consisting of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Grand Council, Board of Punishments, and Court of Censors, the following prisoners were questioned: Hsu Chih-ching, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites; the Censor Yang Shenhsin; the Hanlin Compiler, Yang Jui; Tan Tze-tung, Lin Hsio, and Lin Kuang-ti, first-class Secretaries of the Grand Council, and Kang Kuang-jen, M.A., the younger brother of Kang Yu-wei. It was proved that Hsu Chih-ching had not been guilty of anything more serious than recommending Kang Yu-wei to the Emperor's confidence. It seemed that Kang was a classmate and intimate friend of Hsu's son, Hsu Jen-chu, Literary Chancellor of Hunan—since cashiered and dismissed for ever from the public service—and the latter wrote so warmly on Kang's behalf to his father, that Hsu did all he could to make the Emperor favourable to Kang. For this reason Hsu was only adjudged to have been "careless in his recommendations" and was therefore recommended by his judges to the Empress-Dowager for mercy. [We know that the act of "mercy" was lifelong imprisonment in the dungeons of the Board of Punishments.] The other six prisoners were charged with being "deeply-dyed traitors" and unworthy of mercy. On the 28th of September while the six were again before the joint tribunal, a secret edict suddenly arrived commanding the instant decapitation of the prisoners. The hour was almost dusk, but when the edict was read to the unfortunate six none of them showed any fear. Tan Tze-tung (the Governor of Hupeh's son) and Lin Hsio being especially fearless, glorying in this opportunity to die for their principles and warning their judges that for every head that fell that day a thousand others would rise up for liberty and reform. Heaven spread, as it were, a veil to hide the sanguinary deed, for darkness had already fallen over the city when the executions began. After the judges who attended the executions had left the ground, the families and servants of the six unfortunates sewed the head of each victim on to its trunk and placed the bodies in coffins that had been prepared for the purpose by them.

As for Chang Yin-huan, when he was cast into the prison of the Board of Punishments the other day, the goalers reaped quite a harvest in the shape of "squeezes" on his family, no less than Tls. 1,000 being paid for the single privilege of allowing his bedding to be taken into his cell.

When the search for the principal members of the Reform Party was first ordered by the Empress-Dowager on the fatal 22nd of September, daylight had not yet appeared. The house of Yang Shenhsin, the Censor, was first searched by the gendarmes, under their Commandant, the Imperial Clansman Chung Li; but the former managed to escape for the time being to a neighbouring monastery, when he was cruelly betrayed by the monks and captured. The brilliant and talented Tan Tze-tung, the Governor of Hupeh's son, happened to be ill in bed at the time, but this did not prevent him from being brutally dragged off by his captors and cast into one of the filthy and cheerless dungeons of the Board of Punishments, without bedding or covering of any sort. Yang Jui, the Hanlin Compiler, was still lying abed when the gendarmes appeared, so no trouble was experienced in taking him into custody. Lin Hsio and Lin Kuang-ti happened to be on duty in the Grand Council Chamber and fell an easy prey to the Empress-Dowager's myrmidons. Hsu Chih-ching happened to be out returning official calls when he received news of search being made for him by Chung Li and his gendarmes, but on learning that two of his sons had already been arrested as hostages for their parent's appearance, the old man gave himself up in order to save his sons. As for Wang Chao, the courageous Secretary of the Board of Rites, and Liang Chi-chao, the ex-Editor of *Chinese Progress*, who were greatly "wanted" by the Conservatives, they somehow managed to effect their escape in time and have not yet been captured.

It is stated that the members of the Reform Party at Peking consist of over 240 men, amongst whom are sixty odd members of the Hanlin Academy. The Conservatives intended to arrest every one of these and make them a warning to the world, but these extreme measures were afterwards considered impolitic and only the Chief Reformers are being now searched for.

The *N. C. Daily News*, from which we take the above, says in a subsequent issue:—

According to a dispatch received on 7th Oct. from Peking there was no one bold enough to come forward to procure a coffin to bury the body of the brother of Kang Yu-wei after the executions of the 28th ultimo, for fear they would be arrested as fellow conspirators of the dead men. Hence, although the families or friends of the other five of the six victims of the Empress-Dowager's vindictive wrath gave them decent burial, the body of the unfortunate Kang Kuang-jen was left to lie neglected on the execution ground until the following day, when the executioners came and dragged it away to cast it in what is called the "myriad peoples' hole" or paupers' burying ground—the greatest dishonour and misfortune that can ever befall a Chinese.

#### WONG KUNG-DU.

In our issue of the 11th inst. appeared a special telegram from Shanghai stating that Wong Kung-du, also known as Huang Chun-hsien, who was formerly Chinese Consul at Singapore and had latterly been designated Minister to Tokyo, had been arrested at Shanghai.

In a recent issue of the *N. C. Daily News* the following paragraph appears with reference to this unfortunate official:—An edict of the 5th instant states that Huang Chun-hsien, Minister-designate to Tokyo, "has reported illness and inability to proceed to his post; he is hereby allowed to resign and Li Sheng-tu, 4th rank Metropolitan Officer and Censor of the Kiangnan Circuit, is hereby appointed to succeed the former, with the rank of brevet 3rd rank Metropolitan Officer acting as second class Ambassador to the Court of Tokyo." A hope was recently expressed in these columns that H. E. Huang Chun-hsien, being an official of liberal view and education, would not find this to be a mark against him in the eyes of the Empress-Dowager, but apparently he has. As for H. E. Li Sheng-tu, it will be remembered that the

Grand Secretary Sun Chia-nai recently selected him and three other high literary officials to proceed to Japan to examine into the educational system in that country, in order to get information for conducting the proposed Peking University. He was subsequently ordered by Imperial edict to be acting Chinese Minister at Tokio, should he be in that city upon the expiration of the term of office of Yu Keng, the then incumbent. This post has now been made a substantive one by the present edict of the 5th instant. As is well-known, H. E. Li, the new Minister, is a resident of Shanghai, a brilliant scholar and a progressive official.

#### GREAT FIRE AT HANKOW.

Late dispatches from Hankow to the *Universal Gazette* regarding the great conflagration in the native city on the 1st instant state that the destruction was even greater than at first estimated. The fire arose through the upsetting of a kerosene lamp in a thatched roof house at 11 p.m. on the 1st instant and it was not until 1 p.m. on the following day that the fire was got under control. It transpires now that no less than three miles of streets and alleyways were burnt out leaving homeless 14,931 families. There was a gale of wind blowing at the time, so that the flying sparks started a conflagration in alleys in several opposite quarters at the same time, thus cutting off the people living in intervening houses from escape. In this way over a thousand people are said to have been burnt to death. In one alley alone 217 persons, old and young, failed to escape, while two fire engines in the alley were also burned in the general catastrophe. Amongst the larger hongs gutted were nineteen banks, three of the largest pawnbroking houses in the province of Hupeh, and nine well-known large book stores, the last named aggregating a capital of not less than Tls. 300,000. It is claimed that this has been the greatest conflagration that has ever befallen a Chinese city since the suppression of the Tai-ping rebellion, when, of course, whole cities were set on fire and destroyed by the rebels.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### JUNG LU.

It is perhaps not generally known that the Grand Secretary Jung Lu, who, until the other day, held the post of Viceroy of Chihli, is a favourite nephew of the Empress-Dowager—the son of her only sister—and that this circumstance alone, if any other were wanting, would have placed him on her side in the conflict with His Majesty Kuang Hsu and the Reform Party. Naturally, since the *coup* Jung Lu has been made more powerful than ever, in fact, the most powerful official in the Empire, for since his recall to Peking he has been appointed not only Generalissimo of the naval and military forces of the Peiyang, but also Comptroller-General of the Affairs of the Board of War, an appointment which places him in supreme control of all the military forces of the Empire and of China's modern fleet. His rank as Grand Councillor and second Grand Secretary further places him at the head of all the civil officials of the Empire with the exception of Li Hung-chang, who happens to hold the post of *Wenhua-tien* or Senior Grand Secretary. The power Jung Lu holds now would enable him to carry out effectually the most ambitious personal schemes, were he so disposed.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### ANOTHER DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 5th October.

The mad dog which had caused two deaths already of residents in Broadway, claimed another victim to-day. It is with great regret that we have to chronicle the death of Mrs. Scott, wife of Captain Scott, which occurred to-day. Mrs. Scott made a brave struggle against the terrible disease, and it was hoped that the heroic treatment which she went through in the Pasteur Institute at Nagasaki would have saved her. But the hope was in vain, and another Shanghai resident has fallen a victim to the most horrible disease known to medicine. This she might have escaped had there been a Pasteur Institute in the great commercial metropolis of the Far



East, and if she had not had to wait for a steamer to take her to Nagasaki for treatment. Mrs. Scott returned here on the French Mail boat on Monday. When she embarked at Nagasaki she was apparently quite well, but on the passage across the paroxysms seized her, and on her arrival here on Monday she was in a hopeless condition, with the dread symptoms strongly developed. After two days of dreadful suffering, despite the closest attention from Drs. Henderson, McLeod, and Milles, she succumbed to-day at her residence, 56a, Broadway. Nothing sadder has even occurred in recent years in Shanghai and her husband and the four little children she leaves behind her have the most heartfelt sympathy of the entire community. It was in defending her infant against the rabid dog that she was torn and bitten by the maddened brute, whose poisonous fangs are responsible for three tragic and awful deaths.—*China Gazette*.

### CHUNGKING.

#### CRITICAL STATE OF AFFAIRS.

16th September.

I have just wired to you news of the outbreak of a serious disturbance at the city of Hochou which is distant from us only about 60 miles. The Catholic Mission was burnt, the American premises looted, while one British subject with his wife and family who happened to be travelling in the vicinity of Hochou, at the time, were only saved from maltreatment or capture by the activity of their boatmen. The riot occurred three days ago, and the one consolatory fact about the whole business is that no one, so far as is at present known, was injured in the *melée*. There can be no doubt that the renowned Yu Man-tze is responsible not only for the riot but for the very real and alarming state of unrest which is so general in this and other districts immediately to the north. From all quarters where Yu Man-tze is supposed to possess influence we learn that a very unhappy condition of affairs exists. The country people are in many cases flocking into the cities for protection, others again are finding a place of refuge in the fortifications which were built on the mountain tops in the time of Chan Hsien-chung—the arch-rebel of 200 years ago—while it is also alleged that in instances not a few the farmers in the unsettled regions have sold their newly garnered harvests for a mere song, rather than run the risk of having everything forcibly appropriated by the marauders. Such are the reports that have been reaching Chungking during the past fortnight and being, as we all believe, literally true, they indicate a very serious state of affairs.

Yu Man-tze is practically master of a very large area, and government on ordinary lines is, to all intents and purposes, impossible; mob law prevails. Yu has at length issued his manifesto. It is a blatant document of over 700 characters—far too long to be translated at present. In it he poses as a martyr. He alleges himself to be a man of many grievances. The magistrates have systematically refused to examine into his case, and would regard him as a dangerous outlaw. Soldiers have even been sent to arrest him. He has no place of refuge. The Christians are his relentless foes. He has now determined to act for himself. Besides, is not his country in great danger of being swallowed up by "the dogs and goats" from over the sea? He will come to the aid of his native land in the hour of her extremity. His patriotism is not evanescent, but strong and constant. He has collected his trusty followers, who with him have sworn to avenge China's injuries and wipe out her reproach. He calls upon the people to make ready their weapons and join him in the patriotic crusade. All who belong to the orthodox religion, and respectable people generally (not being Christians, of course), are advised to continue peacefully in their avocations. He will not disturb them "by so much as a hair." But the "dogs and goats" are to be driven out at all cost, and Yu Man-tze and his avenging host have undertaken to do so. All this is a hurried sample of the contents of a document which is widely circulated, and even more widely read. Its style is not the style of a coal-heaver, which Yu Man-tze is said to be, but that of a practised penman. It is officially admitted that his followers are drawn from all classes, and that they are numerous. The power of the man is

sufficiently demonstrated by the fact that the authorities are unable to arrest him, while his influence is strong enough to create riots and disturbances in cities where he never has resided. It is now impossible for foreigners to travel in safety along the great road to the capital, and the condition of the country to the north of Chungking is for aliens still more alarming.

There is a rumour that Yu intends to join his forces with the disaffected spirits in Kiangpeh. After Hochou one feels that even that is possible. Certainly the last condition of Kiangpeh appears to be worse than its first. It has now apparently been definitely decided that no one is to be punished for the murder of a few months ago. The three men said to be responsible for the crime were to have been handed over to justice yesterday. The Taotai had given his promise to this effect. The day came, but not the men. And it is now loudly proclaimed that the punishment of any one for the murder of a Christian will not be allowed by the people. The latter were sufficiently defiant before: Yu Man-tze's attitude has encouraged them in their defiance.

Meanwhile Magistrate Kuo of Kiangpeh is at loggerheads with the Taotai here. The former refuses to obey the latter, and the Taotai is powerless to enforce his commands. The provincial government for the time is said to be in the hands of H. E. Wen, the Treasurer, who is ably supported in his anti-foreign proclivities by the renowned Mr. Lai, whose antipathy to foreigners is well-known. Little wonder that our present Taotai, who is believed to be friendly, should in these anxious times find his hands tied. "He is powerless" is the exact phrase of one who is in a position to know what transpires daily between the official residences in Chengtu and the Taotai's yamen in this city. While there is war going on among the mandarins it is hardly likely that the riotous position of the people will be abandoned in favour of more peaceful proceedings.

And now that Hochou has fallen we who reside as strangers within the gates of Chungking are rudely compelled to ask the question: "What next? Is Chungking likely to follow in the wake of Hochou, Shunching, and other places?" There is no denying the existence of a spirit of anxiety. It is equally impossible to disbelieve the truth of the report that Yu Man-tze has a strong desire to visit this city, and deal with "the dogs and goats" who reside here, in his own way. Probably too his visit would be welcomed by a considerable portion of the community, who have not yet overcome their inherited dislike to the foreigner. But after all, admitting these facts and even more of the same nature, the writer cannot persuade himself that a riot will occur here. For one thing the local mandarins, and particularly the Taotai, are exercising the greatest care lest suspicious strangers should enter the city unawares. The city gates are guarded, streets are patrolled by detectives in plain clothes in search of the enemy, while the barricades are promptly and effectually closed every night at a comparatively early hour. Add to all this the fact that the local people generally never seemed to be more peaceably disposed, while it also appears to be true that the heavy balance of the citizens are themselves disinclined for a row. They have no wish to see Yu Man-tze here, and it is quite possible that many of them would actively resent his appearance. Still it remains true that riots are generally engineered not by the many but by the few. But there is no use blinking the fact that we, as a foreign community, are living in grave, if not, critical times. Something might occur at any moment to falsify the prediction of peace. Hence the wisdom of preparing for the worst even while we continue to hope for the best. At the suggestion of Mr. Litton, H.B.M.'s able representative here, and with the permission of Mr. Smithers, the U.S. Consul, a meeting of foreign residents was convened yesterday in the American Consulate at which certain plans were proposed and adopted for the purpose of securing united action on the part of the large missionary community, in case of trouble breaking out. It is devoutly hoped that the wisdom of the arrangements made will never be put to a practical test, but it is none the less generally felt that the signs of the times point to the necessity of being prepared for emergencies. The community is under a

debt of gratitude to Mr. Litton, who is ever on the alert, and his official colleagues for the careful attention they are just now giving to the distressing circumstances of the moment and the serious bearing they have upon the lives and welfare and work of their nationals in this disturbed port. It is unnecessary to add that it is high time the "reign of terror" which, speaking for the present year, originated first of all in the adjoining city of Kiangpeh, and which has since been confirmed and strengthened by the lawless activities of Yu Man-tze & Co., should be terminated. And, moreover, we British subjects believe that Sir Claude MacDonald will now see to it that the present aspect of affairs in this remote district shall be forthwith changed to something less calculated to beget anxiety and unrest among his countrymen, many of whom are surrounded by their wives and little children.

20th September.

The aspect of affairs in this neighbourhood is daily becoming more serious. The riots are spreading in the country districts, and R. C. Christians are suffering terribly at the hands of lawless bands of men. Taotai Jen seems to be unable to control the people at a distance, and this is not to be wondered at seeing that ex-Taotai Lai is now one of the two chief magistrates at the provincial capital. By this time he, Lai, will be known to your readers as a bitter opponent of foreigners and indeed everything foreign. Rumours have been afloat to-day that the mission stations at Suiyin, Peh-koshu, Yinchou and other places have been destroyed. We fear there may be something in them, but the writer is inclined to think that the reports are exaggerated. It is true, however, that native colporteurs employed by the Agents of the Bible Societies have been compelled to return to Chungking owing to the unfriendliness of the people in the villages. It is also true that the Consuls have ordered all foreigners residing in bungalows on the hills into the city forthwith, and I have to add that there is sufficient reason for this step. At the same time Chungking continues to be perfectly quiet, and there is good reason for supposing that the peace of the city will not be disturbed. The Taotai has professed his ability to maintain order within the walls, and representative men with whom I have had frequent conversation assure me that a disturbance is most unlikely. It is, however, well-known that Yu Man-tze has numerous abettors in Chungking, and that it would not take very much to stir their energies into hostile activity. Moreover this city possesses its own quota of idlers and ne'er-do-wells who would be glad of any pretext to engage in a game of rapine and pillage. We continue, however, to hope for the best, although several residents have deemed it wise to prepare for emergencies. H.B.M.'s Consul, Mr. Litton, is exerting all his strength to prevent trouble, and the community is under a deep debt of gratitude to him.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Canton Government has received instructions from Peking to discontinue the reclamation work on the river bund till the Hankow-Canton railway has been completed, when the privilege of continuing the work will be granted to the same merchant to whom it has already been granted by the Viceroy.

Admiral Ho Chang-ching has proposed to the Viceroy to enlist all the fishermen as volunteers. The men will be allowed to continue their customary work, but if there is any emergency they will be called out for service. This proposal has been highly appreciated.

One hundred and thirty official posts have been abolished in obedience to the Imperial decree. Most of the posts were held by petty officials and were not of much utility.

The house occupied by the family of Chang Yin-huan, who had been banished to Kashgaria, has now been laid quite desolate. All the members of the family have made good their escape. It is reported that his only son has taken refuge in Japan.

Favourable crops are reported from all districts. The price of rice is consequently greatly declining.

A large number of soldiers of the garrisons of the Viceroy's yamen and of the Kwang-chau



Colonel have been disbanded, under instructions from Peking, with the view of economising. There are only three garrisons of one hundred soldiers each remaining at the Viceroy's yamen. The disbanded soldiers were shipped to Shihing on the 9th instant.

### HONGKONG.

Mr. D. Gillies was a passenger for Manila by the *Esmeralda*.

There were 2,116 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 169 were Europeans.

The Marquis Ito arrived at Shanghai on the 5th October, having left Peking on the 28th September.

The return of communicable diseases notified during the week ended 8th October shows one case of enteric fever.

The stamp revenue last month was \$26,558, being an increase of \$5,422 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of 1897.

A Simla despatch of the 26th September states that Artillery Lieutenants Mair, Mulliken, and Colville have been ordered to join the Hongkong and Singapore Battalion.

The maximum temperature last month was 90, on the 30th, and the minimum 73.7, on the 11th, the mean for the month being 80.9. The rainfall for the month amounted to 5.295 inches.

The French steamer *Hoihuo*, formerly the *Fokien*, which was so badly damaged in the typhoon of the 29th ult. and has since been undergoing repairs at the Foochow Arsenal, arrived here on 10th Oct. The *Hoihuo* belongs to Mr. Marty.

The appointment of Mr. C. McIlvaine Messer to be Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils, with effect from the 11th inst., during the absence of Mr. J. G. T. Buckle, is gazetted. Mr. Buckle, we understand, is going to Japan on vacation leave.

On Monday afternoon a plot of Crown land situate in Macdonnell Road (between Kennedy and Bowen Roads) was offered for sale by public auction. It comprises 31,700 square feet. The annual rent is \$216. The plot was sold to Miss Kate Mather for \$3,829—\$25 above the upset price.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Queen's exequatur empowering Mr. Rounseville Wildman to act as Consul-General for the United States has received Her Majesty's signature; also that Mr. Edwin Wildman has been recognised as Vice and Deputy Consul-General for the United States.

Captain T. Carlyle, R.A., Inspector of Ordnance Machinery, is to be transferred from Singapore to Hongkong. Capt. and Mrs. Carlyle will leave by the first trooper for Hongkong, probably the *Selunga*, which will pass through with the Welsh Fusiliers. Capt. Carlyle will in all probability be able to shoot in the Singapore team before he goes. He put on a very fine 101 the other day.—*Free Press*.

For working a horse while the same was suffering from a sore on the back, the licensed driver of No. 3 gharry was on 13th Oct. fined \$25 by Commander Hastings. Sergeant Clarke noticed that the horse, which was standing opposite the Central Market, was very restive, and on causing defendant to remove the saddle he found underneath a sore one and a half inch in diameter. He had the horse unyoked and taken to the stables.

Kang Yu-wei, the "Modern Sage" of China, formerly kept a school in Canton. The school was carried on until the other day and many of Kang's old pupils were still in attendance, but hearing that they were to be arrested, on suspicion of being adherents of Kang in his political movements, they left the school and retired into hiding. On the 6th October the Punyn Magistrate went with a number of his followers and shut up and sealed the school-house. No arrests were made.

Flogging as now inflicted in Victoria Gaol, viz., with the birch, produces, Dr. Atkinson tells us in his annual report, "no contusion of the subcutaneous tissues, the usual result being a superficial redness which soon passes off and does not interfere with the prisoner's labour." Most persons have probably had some experience of this "superficial redness" in the earlier portion of their career. As milk for babes it may be wholesome, but we should be inclined to doubt its efficacy as strong meat for men.

It is reported that Major General Wilson Black's successor in the command of the troops will be Major-General Gascoigne, now commanding the Canadian Militia.

A correspondent informs us that the Triads in the districts of Sunon, Tungkun, and Kwai-sin are preparing for a rising and that absent members are being notified to rejoin the branches of the Society in their respective districts. Many new members are also said to be joining, including even some of the gentry. As the projected Canton Volunteer Corps has not yet been formed, Liu Jung-fu, the Black Flag chief, is inviting recruits to join his standard for the defence of the city.

Commander Hastings had an extraordinary specimen of humanity before him on 10th Oct. Four men were implicated in a gambling case. One of them—the owner of the cargo boat in which the gambling took place—was a most repulsive object, his face being swollen and his hands and feet covered with sores. It transpired that he was a leper. He and the others were fined, but instead of serving the alternative term of imprisonment he will be sent to the leper island at Canton.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

A letter to the *Osaka Asahi* from Vladivostok states that Prince Henry of Prussia arrived at the city of Habarovsk on the 19th ult., having proceeded thither by train from Vladivostok, which he left on the 16th ult. On the way the Prince was given a warm reception at Nicolievsk by the military officers and leading merchants of the town.

We are glad to learn that Liang Chi-tsao the editor of the defunct journal *Chinese Progress*, and Wang Shao, Secretary of the Board of Rites, another prominent protégé of Kang Yu-wei, have reached a place of safety, where they will be secure from the rage of the Empress Dowager, Jung Lu, and Li Hung-chang. They arrived in Nagasaki a couple of days ago, on a Japanese steamer from Tientsin.—*China Gazette*.

Referring to the Peking crisis the Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says:—The element of comedy is not wanting in more exalted quarters, if the native statements can be accepted. They say that His Majesty appeared before his august aunt in all the bravery of foreign clothes made by the native sartorial artist who jobs for the Legations. Presumably, like most orientals who get into foreign rig for the first time, he must have cut a curious figure—bowler hat and stick. The story is that this droll vagary was the last drop in the cup of bitterness, the final proof that the fit had reached its height and that re-action must be taken.

An exceptionally high tide was experienced at Shanghai on the 1st October, partly due to the effect of the N.E. gale. The grass plots along the Bund foreshore were flooded to such an extent that in places the sampans found sufficient water to float in. The Bund in several places was under water, especially near the Garden Bridge, where it was impossible to pass on foot without getting wet feet. The Soochow Creek overflowed its banks so that the flow of rain water through the channels of the adjacent streets was checked and the roads were partially flooded. Similar overflows prevailed along the Broadway and out Yangtzepoo. The tide on the 2nd was also an exceptionally high one.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *China Gazette* of the 6th October says:—Amongst the most interested spectators of this morning's powing was Lord Charles Beresford, who was one of the first to arrive at the rails, accompanied by his Private Secretary. The gallant Lord seemed to be hugely interested in the times, and doubtless the scene recalled the days, when his figure was slighter and his hair thicker, that he, as a junior lieutenant in the navy, similarly spent his mornings twenty-five years ago at the Shanghai Race Course, and wound up the day with a game of bowls in the old bowling alley on the Maloo, where his score, which was not quite a "record," is affectionately preserved. Yesterday afternoon Lord Charles accompanied Mr. C. J. Dudgson on a tour of inspection of the foreign cotton mills on Yangtzepoo Road. To-morrow Lord Charles will have a meeting with the Marquis Ito.

Owing to the dull business in cotton yarn it is reported that the Huasheng Cotton Spinning Mills at Yatgtzepoo will stop work temporarily, so soon as the balance of material on hand shall have been worked up.—*N. C. Daily News*.

### COMMERCIAL.

#### TEA.

SHANGHAI, 8th October.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.)—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were under date 26th ultimo, Black Tea.—Only two small settlements are reported. A few "trashy" Shuntams have been shown, but it is to be hoped that no quantity of this low quality stuff is likely to be brought forward. Settlements reported are:—

Hohow.....480 half-chests, at Tls. 16 to 6½ a picul.  
Stock 5,909 half-chests.

GREEN TEA.—Late telegraphic advices from New York report "there is no improvement in this market." This continued stagnation week after week begins to impress upon buyers here how large a quantity of Green Tea must have remained unconsumed in the United States for some seasons past. Although vague statements of large stocks had been received from correspondents, it was difficult to believe that these were not exaggerated after two years of small export, and after last year's losses at sea and wholesale rejections of Pinguey. The position has been exposed by the levying of a duty, but it remains to be seen to what point the actual consumption of Green Tea in the United States has fallen. Pinguey.—Nearly the whole business reported has been shipments on native account; there is little or no demand otherwise. Country Teas.—The volume of business reported is less than it was during the previous interval and the market closes quiet with less desire on the part of buyers to operate. Moyunes have kept fairly steady, and on the whole are no lower in price, though occasional chops look rather cheaper. Tienkais in most cases show a rather weaker market. Fychows have fallen as much in quality as they have in price. Local-packed are quite neglected. Hysons.—Choicest are still wanted. A moderate business has been done by a few buyers in "finest" Moyunes and Tienkais at Tls. 30.35, many of which show good value compared with any previous settlements this season. The demand is not active.

Settlements reported are:—

½-chts.  
Pinguey ..... 5,023 shipped.  
Moyune ..... 6,870 at Tls. 20 to 28½ a picul  
Tienkai ..... 6,503 " 18 to 30½ "  
Fychow ..... 2,176 " 17½ to 20 "  
Local packed..... 218 shipped.

20,820 ½-chts

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

1898-99.		
	Settlements.	Stock.
	½-chts.	½-chts.
Pinguey	28,733	15,463
Moyune	41,725	
Tienkai	34,666	34,051
Fychow	11,417	
Local packed	13,115	3,217
Total	129,656	52,763

1897-98.		
	Settlements.	Stock.
	½-chts.	½-chts.
Pinguey	59,959	25,419
Moyune	52,348	
Tienkai	55,015	18,432
Fychow	16,816	
Local packed	14,610	283
Total	98,818	44,133

### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99 lbs.	1897-98 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	9,277,051	10,703,236
Foochow	10,573,774	10,664,212
Amy	390,250	518,058
Canton	3,191,055	3,855,438
Total	23,432,080	25,540,944

### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99 lbs.	1897-98. lbs.
Shanghai	7,186,004	10,548,100
Amy	5,410,936	9,354,477
Foochow	4,969,051	5,497,972
Total	17,565,991	25,399,549



## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,676,902	19,375,665

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
Yokohama	18,929,288	21,266,562
Kobe	11,235,261	13,506,818
	30,164,549	34,773,380

## SILK.

CANTON, 1st October.—Silk.—Re-reels.—A few bales of No. 1 Grant have been sold at \$59. Tatlees.—Some No. 3 and 4 are said to have been settled at \$5 C/505. Filatures.—Were in fair enquiry during the fortnight, but prices asked are still beyond the reach of the majority of buyers. Reelers remain very firm for 5th crop produce asking prices which for fine sizes rule \$10-20 per picul over Lyons values. From prices paid we quote: \$782 for Yee Wo Loong, Wing Wo Lun, and Cheong Kee 9/11, \$760 for Kwong King Cheong and Poo Cheong 10/12, \$750 for Shun Kee and Kwong Ho 11/13, \$730 for Kai Sun Cheong 13/15, \$720 for How King Cheong and Kwong Ho 13/15, \$680 for Yee Wo Loong 16/20, \$675/640 for Kwong Loon, Cheong 11/13 and 13/15, \$669/430 for Yee Wo Lun 11/13 and 13/15. Short-reels.—For America have been in little enquiry, but high prices have been paid for some favourite chops, \$775 for Hao King Lun 14/16, \$755 for Yu Wo Cheong 14/16. Waste.—Quiet with moderate transactions.

SHANGHAI, 8th October.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—According to the latest telegrams the tone of the Home markets is firm. Gold Killings are quoted from London at 9/10½ and from Lyons at Fcs. 27.50. Raw Silk.—Since our last Circular buyers, helped by a drop in Exchange, have been more in evidence, and holders of Tatlees have been able to secure a slight advance; the demand has been chiefly for these, and about 700 bales have changed hands; the market closes very strong. Yellow Silks.—About 200 bales have been settled, and prices have been somewhat in buyers' favour. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, October 1st to 7th are: 1,187 bales White, 333 bales Yellow, and 244 bales Wild Silks. Re-Reels and Filatures.—The business this week has been confined to Hand Filatures for Lyons, and transactions have been mainly in the commoner qualities; settlements are about 100 bales. The Export of steam Filatures to date is: 1,069 bales to the Continent, 748 bales to America, and 51 bales to England. Wild Silks.—Very little doing. Waste Silks.—A little more doing; the following are some of the transactions reported:—

	at Tls.
50 Szechuen Yellow Gam 60 p. c. No. I, 30 p. c. No. II, 10 p. c. No. III.	29
150 Cocoon Flosses No. I	15
200 Hankow Frisonnets (whole bales)	20½
50 Filature Tussah Waste 50 p. c. No. I, 50 p. c. No. II	24

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
Shanghai	25,767	26,913
Canton	13,533	10,468
Yokohama	6,118	6,194
	45,418	43,575

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
Shanghai	2,478	4,179
Canton	5,376	5,180
Yokohama	5,449	8,349
	11,303	18,008

## CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—The improvement in the market continues. Quotations for Formosa are \$46.25 to \$46.00. Sales, 300 piculs.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—A further advance in prices is reported. Quotations are:—  
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.70 to 7.75 per picul.  
do. " 2, White... 7.50 to 7.55  
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.14 to 5.17  
do. " 2, Brown... 5.00 to 5.05  
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.55 to 7.60  
do. " 1, White... 7.40 to 7.43

Swatow, No. 1, Brown... \$4.93 to 4.97 per picul.  
do. " 2, Brown... 4.87 to 4.90  
Foochow Sugar Candy... 11.60 to 11.70  
Shekloong " " 11.05 to 11.10

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manila*, sailed on the 2nd October. For Liverpool:—11 bales hemp. For London:—11 cases cigars from Manila, 50 bales waste silk, 1,334 bales hemp, 310 rolls matting, 17 cases Chinaware, 15 cases sundries, 2 cases ginger, 4 packages private effects, and 2 packages and 5,126 boxes tea.

Per Amer. ship *Governor Robie*, sailed on the 6th October. From Hongkong for New York:—18,489 rolls matting, 1,000 cases cannon crackers, 2,500 bales broken cassia, 500 bales and 400 cases cassia lignea, 860 cases palm leaf fans, 300 cases preserves, 70 cases heather brushes, 38 packages rattan furniture, and 26 packages rugs.

Per steamer *Trieste*, sailed on the 7th Oct. For Trieste:—2,500 cases cassia lignea, 40 cases cassia buds, 550 bales broken cassia, 30 bales canes, 15 cases essential oil, 610 bales tobacco, 149 bales rattan, 100 bales waste silk, 25 cases star aniseed, 400 chests tea, and 25 bales galangal. For Odessa:—350 cases cassia lignea, and 68 bales galangal. For Beyrouth:—30 cases cassia lignea, and 10 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Laos*, sailed on the 8th October. For Bombay:—8 bales raw silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For France:—750 bales raw silk, 8 cases silks, 15 cases essential oil, 4 cases curios, 36 cases Chinaware, 322 rolls matting, 9 cases books, and 21 packages tea. For London:—60 bales raw silk, and 2 cases silk.

Per steamer *Indravelli*, sailed on the 8th Oct. For New York:—3,500 bales hemp, 1,900 boxes fire crackers, 95 boxes essential oil, 71 boxes bristles, 220 boxes ginger, 7 casks ginger, 50 rolls matting, 207 packages rattanware, 101 packages Chinaware, 57 packages soy, 24 cases black-woodware, 30 cases paper, 1,722 pkgs. Chinese sundries.

Per steamer *Antenor*, sailed on the 8th Oct. For London:—5,381 boxes tea, 2 cases silks, 38 cases chinaware, 50 cases essential oil, 84 cases cigars, 228 cases pearl shell, 283 cases preserves, 650 casks preserves, 230 cases milk, 19 cases blackwoodware, 35 cases bristles, 10 cases cantharides, 6 cases curios, 50 bales waste silk, 50 bales canes, 1406 bales hemp, 21 bales feathers, 42 packages sundries, 4 packages cassia oil. For London and/or Manchester:—254 bales waste silk. For London and/or Liverpool:—1,443 bales hemp. For London and/or Rotterdam:—100 casks preserves. For London and/or Glasgow:—100 casks preserves. For Manchester:—149 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—2,255 bales hemp. For Antwerp:—100 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—200 cases ginger, 1 case sundries. For Havre:—105 cases shells. For Glasgow:—40 cases ginger, 165 casks ginger, and 3 cases black-woodware.

Per Amer. barque *Prince Arthur*, sailed on the 9th October. From Hongkong for New York:—2 cases hardware, 3 cases camphorwood trunks, 13 cases bambooware, 115 cases black-woodware, 131 bales strawhats, 137 cases earthenware, 224 bales strawbraid, 453 packages rattan furniture, 500 bales broken cassia, 738 bales rattanore, 2,365 cases pamleaf fans, and 16,875 rolls matting.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—Bengal—Owing to rather small stocks there has been a further improvement in prices, quotations closing at \$777½ for New Patna and \$730 for New-Benares.

Malwa.—This year's new is in demand and has improved in value, other descriptions being neglected. Current quotations are as under:—  
New (this yr's) \$740 with allowance to 1½ catties  
Old (2¼ yrs.) \$770 " " to 1½  
" (5/6 " ) \$830 " " to 1½  
" (7/8 " ) \$870 " " to 2

Persian.—The market has ruled very quiet during the interval, and quotations have not undergone any change. Latest figures are \$550 to \$630 for Oily, and \$650 to \$740 for Paper-wrapped drug, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,828 chests
Old Patna	28
New Benares	284
Old Benares	48
Malwa	642
Persian	773

## COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Oct. 8	760	—	745	—	740	—
Oct. 9	760	—	745	—	740	—
Oct. 10	760	—	745	—	740	—
Oct. 11	760	—	745	—	740	—
Oct. 12	763½	—	747½	—	740	—
Oct. 13	765	—	750	—	740	—
Oct. 14	777½	—	750	—	740	—

## COTTON.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—Good business has been effected at a decline of \$½ to \$1. Stock, about 5,500 bales.

Bombay ..... \$16.00 to 16.50 picul.  
Kurrachee ..... to ..  
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 17.00 to 17.50  
and Dacca ..... }  
Shanghai and Japanese... 20.00 to 21.00  
Tungchow and Ningpo... 20.00 to 21.50  
Madras (Best)..... to ..  
Sales: 1,300 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—There is little change to report in the position of this market during the past week. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.20 to 2.25
" Round, good quality	2.35 to 2.40
" Long	2.60 to 2.65
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.25 to 2.30
" Garden, " No. 1	2.70 to 2.75
" White	3.40 to 3.45
" Fine Cargo	3.65 to 3.70

## COALS.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—No business doing beyond small retail sales. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$18.00 to 19.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian	10.00 to 10.50 ex ship, "
Mitki Lump	9.50 to 10.50 nominal
and Small	
Moji Lump	8.00 to 9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double	12.00 to — ex Godown
screened	
Hongay Lump	8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	5.50 to —
Briquettes	10.00 to —

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 6 at \$71, 50 bales No. 8 at \$72, 1,700 bales No. 10 at \$67 to \$76 50, 500 bales No. 12 at \$72.50 to \$84, 50 bales No. 16 at \$85 50, 450 bales No. 20 at \$81.50 to \$83. Japanese Yarn.—50 bales No. 16 at \$85. Grey Shirtings.—1,200 pieces 8½ lbs Blue Seal at \$2.87½, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at \$3.85, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$3.85, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Palm Chop at \$3.87½, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Dragon at \$3.75, 600 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$3.82½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.52½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.52½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$2.97½. White Shirtings.—500 pieces 8. Q. at \$4.35, 250 pieces No. 600 at \$4.32½, 250 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.05, 250 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.20, 1,000 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.27½, 1,000 pieces 8. Q. at \$4.35, 500 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.85, 500 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6, 500 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.20, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.95. T. Cloths.—1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.30, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.72½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. X M at \$2.35, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. V V at \$2.92½, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. X X at \$2.97½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.72½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. C C at \$3.05, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.30, 1,500 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. C. C. at \$3.05, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.3, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. C. C. at \$3.05, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. V. V. at \$2.92½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. X X at \$2.97½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.30, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. V V at \$2.92½, 1,125 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.30. Drills.—75 pieces 14 lbs. Large Eagle at \$4.87½, 75 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.27½.



150 pieces 14 lbs. No. 250 at \$3.50. Bengal Cotton.  
—100 bales at \$17.50, 43 bags at \$14.75.

METALS.—Tin.—100 slabs Foong Chai at \$44.25.

COTTON YARN. per bale  
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. .... 62.00 to 88.00  
English—Nos. 16 to 24. .... 104.00 to 110.00  
" 22 to 24. .... 105.00 to 111.00  
" 28 to 32. .... 118.00 to 123.00  
" 38 to 42. .... 127.00 to 132.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece  
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. .... 1.72 to 1.82  
7lbs. .... 1.97 to 2.05  
8.4 lbs. .... 2.40 to 3.15  
9 to 10 lbs. .... 3.30 to 4.10  
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. .... 2.30 to 2.50  
58 to 60 " .... 2.70 to 3.35  
64 to 66 " .... 3.45 to 4.30  
Fine .... 4.30 to 7.00  
Book-folds. .... 3.70 to 5.60  
Victoria Lawns—12 yards .... 0.64 to 1.30  
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. .... 1.52 to 1.72  
7lbs. (32 " ) " .... 1.85 to 2.10  
6lbs. (32 " ) Mexs. .... 1.62 to 1.82  
7lbs. (32 " ) " .... 2.03 to 2.75  
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) .... 2.35 to 3.20  
Drills, English—40 yds. 13 1/4 to 14lbs. .... 3.65 to 5.05

FANCY COTTONS  
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/4 to 8lbs. .... 1.50 to 4.85  
Brocades—Dyed .... 3.00 to 5.00  
Damasks .... 0.12 to 0.16  
Chintzes—Assorted .... 3.08 to 0.14  
Velvets—Black, 22 in. .... 0.20 to 0.45  
Velveteens—18 in. .... 0.17 to 0.18

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90  
WOOLLENS per yard  
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. .... 0.60 to 1.40  
German .... 1.15 to 1.80  
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. .... 1.25 to 5.25  
Long Ells—Scarlet .... 6.50 to 8.50  
Assorted .... 6.60 to 8.60  
Camlets—Assorted .... 12.50 to 32.50  
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 11.00 to 20.00  
Orleans—Plain .... 7.00 to 8.50

Blankets—8 to 12lbs. .... 3.50 to 14.00  
METALS per picul  
Iron—Nail Rod .... 3.60 to —  
Square, Flat Round Bar .... 3.60 to —  
Swedish Bar .... 5.25 to —  
Small Round Rod .... 4.15 to —  
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in. .... 5.00 to —  
Wire 15/25 .... 8.25 to —  
Old Wire Rope .... 1.50 to 2.50  
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop .... 8.30 to —  
Australian .... 8.20 to —  
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. .... 33.00 to —  
Vivian's, 14/20 oz. .... 31.50 to —  
Elliot's, 14/20 oz. .... 31.50 to —  
Composition Nails .... 46.00 to —  
Japan Copper, Slabs .... 30.85 to —  
Tiles .... 31.50 to —  
Tin .... — to —

Tin-Plates .... 5.90 to —  
Steel 1/2 to 1 .... 5.25 to —  
SUNDRIES per picul  
Quicksilver .... 125.00 to —  
Window Glass .... 4.55 to —  
Kerosene Oil .... 1.87 to —

SHANGHAI, 8th October.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—It is an old saying that "misfortunes never come singly," and the truth of it is being fully illustrated just now with the market here, which, through a concatenation of circumstances quite beyond the control of those concerned, has been going from bad to worse for the last few months. The rebellion in some of the largest Provinces seems to have been the commencement of the troubles, followed by the recent complications in Peking, which practically paralysed our best markets in the North, and now comes the news of a destructive fire at Hankow early in the interval, which must seriously affect the trade of the largest and most important market on the Yangtze. Little wonder is it, therefore, that business is at a standstill here, the distributing centre, the market book being virtually a blank this week. Although a few of the dealers have been found plucky enough to place orders for the new season, the business done, which is of some magnitude, has not been at all general, in fact many of the leading Importers declare they have

not put pen to paper during the week. The fact that some £200,000 of Bank paper were settled on one day, however, is conclusive evidence that a somewhat large business must have gone through. The Auctions have presented a sorry spectacle this week, in one case several lots of Cotton goods being withdrawn. Clearances of American makes have been a little better, but English goods are moving very slowly. The Yarn market is not quite in sympathy with that for Piece Goods, so far as Indian Spinings are concerned, there having been a better enquiry at steady prices, but the demand is falling off for Japan and Local Yarns and prices are weak. Some of the Native run Mills are already feeling the strain and shutting down. Cotton is cheaper, best machine ginned being quoted 11s. 12.80.

METALS, 10th October.—(From Messrs. Alex. Belfield & Co.'s Report.)—In Metals there is absolute stagnation. Every possible godown is full, and much of the new cargo now arriving has to be stored in the open for want of accommodation. Home advices show a much easier feeling there, but offers at lower prices find no acceptance, all the dealers here being full up of stocks bought at higher rates, which they cannot realise. A comparison of the imports and re-exports for the Third Quarter last year and this shows that while the imports have been much heavier the re-exports have shown a remarkable inability to respond, thus clearly showing the overloading which has occurred.

## EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 14th October.

ON LONDON.—  
Telegraphic Transfer .... 1/10 1/2  
Bank Bills, on demand .... 1/10 1/4  
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight .... 1/11  
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .... 1/11 1/2  
Credits, at 4 months' sight .... 1/11 1/2  
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/11 1/2  
ON PARIS.—  
Bank Bills, on demand .... 2.41  
Credits, at 4 months' sight .... 2.45  
ON GERMANY.—  
On demand .... 1.95  
ON NEW YORK.—  
Bank Bills, on demand .... 46 1/2  
Credits, 60 days' sight .... 47 1/2  
ON BOMBAY.—  
Telegraphic Transfer .... 143  
Bank, on demand .... 143 1/2  
ON CALCUTTA.—  
Telegraphic Transfer .... 143  
Bank, on demand .... 143 1/2  
ON SHANGHAI.—  
Bank, at sight .... 72  
Private, 30 days' sight .... 72 1/2  
ON YOKOHAMA.—  
On demand .... 6 1/2 % pm.  
ON MANILA.—  
On demand .... 2 1/2 % pm.  
ON SINGAPORE.—  
On demand .... 1 1/2 % pm.  
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate .... 10.32  
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .... 54.25

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—A fair business has been put through during the week at fairly steady rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—Sales are reported at 214 and 215 per cent. premium, market closing steady. Nationals have found buyers at \$17.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A small demand for China Traders at \$58 and Cantons at \$131 1/2 has met with no response. Unions have changed hands at \$225 and Straits at \$8 and \$7 1/2. The Northern Insurances continue neglected and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—No business to report in Hongkong, but Chinas have changed hands at \$90 and close with sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have declined to \$27 1/2 with sellers after small sales at \$28. Douglasses have changed hands at \$49 and \$50, closing firmer with sales and probable buyers at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have been negotiated at \$58 1/2 and \$58, closing with buyers at the latter rate. China Manilas and Mutuels unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed at \$162, market closing with sellers at that and at \$167 for December 31st. Luzons have advanced to \$45 with sales.

MINING.—Punjoms have changed hands at \$5 1/2 and \$6 1/2 closing steady at latter rate.

Raubs have been negotiated at \$36 1/2, Great Easterns at \$6.50 and \$6.60, Balmoral preferences at 40 cents, and Jebebus at \$1.40, all in small lots.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled steady without business at 249 per cent. premium. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands in small odd lots at \$65 and more are wanted at the rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found buyers at \$70 and are in further demand. Hotels have improved to \$53 1/2 and \$54. West Points have changed hands in small lots and are enquired for at \$19. Humphreys are wanted at \$8 1/2 and small sales have been effected at that.

COTTON MILLS.—The rates in Shanghai are all down. Hongkong Cottons have found buyers and close rather firmer at \$50.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons, Electrics, Ices, Trams, and Campbell and Moores have been enquired for, small sales only of the first two mentioned having taken place. Nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	215 % prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£4	£0 10s. 6d., buyers
Do. deferred...	£1	£5. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares ....	£8	\$17
Founders Shares..	£1	\$17, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ....	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.40 gnl. & sellers
China Sugar ....	\$100	\$162, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Hongkong .....	\$70	\$50, sales
International .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 81
Lao Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee .....	Tls. 500	Tls. 450
Yahloong .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 50
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$3	\$3 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29 1/2, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$27, sellers
Do. New Issue .....	\$5	\$16, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$8 1/2, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$114, buyers
Hongkong Hotel .....	\$50	\$53 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Ice .....	\$25	\$110, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$65, sal. & buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$162, sal. & buyers
H. & W. Dock .....	\$125	249 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$13 1/2, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$90, sales & sellers
China Traders' .....	\$25	\$53, ex div.
Hongkong Fire .....	\$50	\$325, sellers
North-China .....	£25	Tls. 180
Straits .....	\$20	\$7 1/2, sellers
Union .....	\$50	\$225, sales & buyers
Yangtze .....	\$60	\$129
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$70, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8.50, sal. & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17 1/2
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, buyers
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$45, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages .....	Fcs. 500	\$10, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$6.60, buyers
Jebebu .....	\$5	\$1.40, sales
New Balmoral .....	\$1	30 cts.
Do. Preference ...	\$1	40 cts., sales
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$4, sellers
Do. B. ....	\$2 1/2	\$3.75, sellers
Punjom .....	\$5	\$6
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.50, buyers
Raubs .....	14s. 10d.	\$30 1/2, sales
New Amoy Dock .....	\$6 1/2	\$18 1/2, sales
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$78
China Mutual Ord...	£10	£9. 10s., buyers
Do. Preference ..	£10	£5 10s.
Do. Do. ....	£5	£3
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$27 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N....	£10	\$53, buyers
Star Ferry .....	\$7 1/2	\$9.15, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. ....	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos .....	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do. ....	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'g Co.	\$37 1/2	\$41, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$12.25, buyers

J. V. Y. VERNON, broker.



SHANGHAI, 10th October. From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.—There has been a little improvement in business this week, with higher values for various stocks, including Indo-China, China Sugar and Farnham shares. But Cotton Mill shares show no improvement. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares were purchased from Hongkong at 215 per cent. premium, costing 217 with exchange 73 laid down here. Local shares were placed for delivery on the 28th February at 230 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—Shares are weak with sellers. Unions and North-Chinas are wanted, while Yangtszes are offering. Fire Insurance.—No business is reported. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Shares have been in strong demand, and business was done at Tls. 42 cash, Tls. 43 for 28th July and 28th February, Tls. 43.50 for December and Tls. 45/46 for March. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands at Tls. 40.50 cash and Tls. 43 for the 31st December. China Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$159 and \$165.50 cash and for March at \$175, 176.75 and \$177. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold at \$15.50. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—S. C. Farnham & Co. shares were placed at Tls. 159 and Tls. 160 cash, Tls. 160 for the 31st current, and Tls. 163.50 for 30th November. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 116. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares were sold to Hongkong at \$65. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 82 and Tls. 83, and are wanted. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares were sold at Tls. 23. International Cotton Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 80 and Tls. 81 cash, Tls. 83 for the 31st current and for December, and Tls. 85 for March. Liou-Kung-Mow shares were sold at Tls. 80 cash and Tls. 81 for the 31st current. Yeh Loong shares changed hands at Tls. 55 and Tls. 50. Soy Chee shares are offering at Tls. 450. American Cigarette shares were done at Tls. 65. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Business has been confined to Co-operatives at Tls. 145. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares changed hands at Tls. 204. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were the medium of business at Tls. 64/65 for the 31st current, Tls. 70 for February and Tls. 72 for March. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Co.—The receipt of a telegram from the estate reporting an increase in the production of the oil wells is likely to cause an improvement in this stock.

#### TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 14th October.—Since our last a large number of settlements have been effected. Saigon to Hongkong, the rate is 10 cents per picul; to Java 22 cents. Java to this, 25 cents dry sugar, 30 cents per picul wet sugar. From Newchwang to Canton, a number of steamers have been taken up at 24/29 cents per picul, but owing to the high price of beans in Newchwang, charterers do not care to fix any more boats for October loading; to Amoy 30 cents per picul is offered for small carriers. Sailing tonnage.—The American ship Benjamin F. Packard, which arrived here in ballast from Taku has been chartered to load at this port for New York at 14s. per ton of 40 cubic feet, and further tonnage is wanted for November loading. A sailer is wanted for San Francisco, and one for Callao.

There are no disengaged vessels in port.

The following are the settlements:—

W. H. Connor—American ship, 1,424 tons, Shanghai and Hongkong to New York, private terms.

B. F. Packard—American ship, 2,014 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Serrano—American bark, 594 tons, Ryang to Hongkong, \$3,10 lump sum.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul.

Terrier—Norwegian steamer, 1,003 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 28 1/2 cents per picul.

Siegfried—German steamer, 999 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.

Dr. Hans Jörg Kjaer—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul.

Lok Sang—British steamer, 979 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul.

Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 29 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 767 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 30 cents per picul.

Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 30 cents per picul.

Activ—Danish steamer, 433 tons, Taku/Newchwang/Chefoo/Tamsui to Amoy, \$6,250 lump sum.

Glenogle—British steamer, 2,399 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Cassius—German steamer, 1,469 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.85 per ton.

Taifu—German steamer, 1,035 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.

Decima—German steamer, 1,145 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,133 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Sishan—British steamer, 897 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Saigon to Java, 20 1/2 cents per picul.

Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 975 tons, Saigon to Java, 20 cents per picul.

Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, hence to Java and return, 30 cents per picul.

Sultan—British steamer, 1,643 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 20 1/2 cents per picul.

Ichany—British steamer, 1,241 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 21 cents per picul.

Ariake Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,886 tons, four ports Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 975 tons, two ports Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul wet sugar.

Sultan—British steamer, 1,643 tons, one port Java to Yokohama, 42 sen per picul.

Taichow—British steamer, 862 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$5.50 per month.

Knivsberg—German steamer, 647 tons, monthly, 1/11 month, private terms.

Kong Beng—British steamer, 862 tons, monthly, 6/3/3 months, \$5.60 per month.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$5.25 per month.

Shantung—British steamer, 1,835 tons, hence to San Francisco and return, 35 per ton.

#### VESSELS ON THE WERTH.

For LONDON.—Menelaus (str.), Alesia (str.), Andalusia (str.), Coromandel (str.), Formosa (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.).

For BREMEN.—Sachsen (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Natal (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Coptic (str.), Shantung (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

For VICTORIA, B. C.—Olympia (str.).

For TACOMA.—Olympia (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Indralena (str.), Macduff (str.), John Scotterson (str.), Adolph Orbig, Paul Revere, Mary R. Cushing.

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Wittenberg (str.), Nurnberg (str.), Babelsberg (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Chongsha (str.).

#### SHIPPING.

##### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

##### MAIL.

##### HONGKONG.

##### October—ARRIVALS.

7. Candia, British str., from London.
8. Boplarig, British str., from Shanghai.
8. Choyang, British str., from Canton.
8. Babelsberg, German str., from Hamburg.
8. Yikang, British str., from Cebu.
9. Amara, British str., from Java.
9. Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
9. Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
9. Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
9. Sultan, British str., from Hongkong.
9. St. Paul, Amr. ship, from Kobe.
9. Hsi Ping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
10. Menmuir, British str., from Kobe.
10. Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
10. Hoihao, French str., from Amoy.
10. Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
10. Erejr, Danish str., from Hoihow.
10. Darmstadt, German str., from Shanghai.
10. Ariel, Norwegian str., from Tientsin.
10. Wittenberg, German str., from Hiogo.
10. Tritos, German str., from Java.
11. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
11. Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
11. Mamnon, British str., from Sandakan.

11. Decima, German str., from Mantung.
11. Knivsberg, German str., from Singapore.
11. Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Canton.
12. Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
12. Ashton, British str., from Weihaiwei.
12. Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
12. Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
12. Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
12. Activ, Danish str., from Iloilo.
12. Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
12. Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
12. Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Touron.
12. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
12. Nerite, British str., from Batoum.
12. B. F. Packard, Amr. ship, from Taku.
13. Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
13. Macduff, British str., from Yokohama.
13. Myrmidon, British str., from Liverpool.
13. Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
13. Donar, German str., from Samarang.
13. Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
13. Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.
13. Chusan, British str., from London.
13. Catherine Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
13. Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Amoy.
13. Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
14. Taichow, British str., from Cebu.
14. Java, British str., from London.
14. Glenyle, British str., from S. Francisco.
14. Nippon Maru, Japanese str., from Tyne.
14. Alesia, German str., from Shanghai.
14. Kong Beng, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
14. Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
14. Michael Jensen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
14. Picciola, German str., from Iloilo.
14. Shansi, British str., from Cardiff.
14. Tailee, German str., from Manila.

##### October—DEPARTURES.

8. Lion, French gunboat, for Shanghai.
8. Independent, German str., for Tobago.
8. Laos, French str., for Europe.
8. Indravelli, British str., for New York.
8. Antenor, British str., for London.
8. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
8. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
8. Tetartos, German str., for Singapore.
8. Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
8. San Joaquin, Amr. str., for Amoy.
9. Prince Arthur, Norw. bark, for New York.
9. China, German str., for Saigon.
10. Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
10. Astrid, Norw. str., for Saigon.
10. Nanshan, Amr. str., for Manila.
10. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
10. Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
10. Seitoku Maru, Jap. str., for Amoy.
11. Hsi Ping, Chinese str., for Canton.
11. Glenearn, British str., for Labuan.
11. P. C. C. Kiao, British str., for Swatow.
11. Terrier, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.
11. Belgic, British str., for San Francisco.
11. Candia, British str., for Nagasaki.
11. Benlarig, British str., for London.
11. Nord, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
11. Ariel, Norwegian str., for Canton.
12. Darmstadt, German str., for Europe.
12. Arizona, Amr. str., for Manila.
12. Babelsberg, German str., for Yokohama.
12. Chowfa, British str., for Hoihow.
12. Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
12. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
12. Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
12. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
13. Canton, British str., for Canton.
13. Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
13. Frejr, Danish str., for Haiphong.
13. Phoenix, Norw. str., for Port Wallut.
13. Menmuir, British str., for Sydney.
13. Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for London.
13. Trym, Norwegian str., for Amoy.
13. Taifu, German str., for Hongkong.
13. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
13. Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., for K'notzu.
14. Nerite, British str., for Nagasaki.
14. Wittenberg, German str., for Hamburg.
14. Maria Jensen, German str., for Samarang.
14. Hansa, German str., for Cebu.
14. Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
14. Dagmar, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
14. Myrmidon, British str., for Shanghai.
14. Activ, Danish str., for Tientsin.
14. Yikang, British str., for Gubat.
14. Macduff, British str., for New York.
14. Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.

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